METRO / A19

UP charges 12 Sigma Rhoans before student tribunal

SAT. SPECIAL/ F1

Jodie Foster avoids gossip by being boring

BUSINESS/ B1

RP external debt fell to $53B in June due to weak $

NEWS / A5

Hong Kong pop star defends firing 21 Pinay DHs in 3 years

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Saturday, September 29, 2007 ★★ 10 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 293 P18 website: www.inquirer.net

GMA at UN: Release Aung San Suu Kyi now

By Christine O. Avendaño

UNITED NATIONS—JOINING THE world in its expression of outrage at the killings of protesters in Burma (Myanmar), President Macapagal-Arroyo last night urged that military-ruled country to restore democracy and immediately free Nobel Peace laureate Aung San Suu Kyi.

Ms Arroyo issued the call in a speech at the United Nations General Assembly after Burma's partners in the Association of

GMA AT UN/ A10

'Stand down troops, age of impunity over'

By Gordon Brown
Prime Minister, Great Britain

COMMENTARY

JUST BEFORE HE DIED, I HAD THE PRIVILEGE to meet Michael Aris, the husband of Aung San Suu Kyi. With the support of the international community, he was desperately trying to see his wife for

STAND/ A10

WE DON'T WANT
KILLER JUNTA

ASEAN-WIDE PROTEST: Rallies across Asean are being held to denounce the Burmese junta's bloody crackdown on prodemocracy protesters like this in Kuala Lumpur on Friday. AFP

BURMESE BRAVES

Crowds taunt troops; no monks in sight

RANGOON—CROWDS TAUNTED soldiers and police who barricaded the central part of this capital yesterday to prevent more mass protests against 45 years of military rule in Burma (also known as Myanmar) and deepening economic hardship.

In a potentially deadly game of cat and mouse, groups of several hundred men and women yelled in English, "F___ you, army. We only want democracy," provoking charges by small bands of soldiers.

The protesters disappeared into a warren of narrow side streets and reemerged elsewhere to resume their barrage of abuse in a city of people terrified of a repeat of 1988, when the army killed an estimated 3,000 people in crushing an uprising.

Several shots were fired, but there was no immediate word of more casualties a day after troops swept protesters out of the city center, giving them 10 minutes to leave or risk being shot, then pursued knots of demonstrators through the city.

There was no sign of the monks who turned what started as small protests against shock fuel price rises last month into a mass uprising by lending their huge moral weight to demonstrations against the junta.

Efforts to squelch the protests appeared to be working Friday, with numbers dropping to just over 2,000.

Soldiers pounded dissenters yesterday by swiftly breaking up street gatherings of diehard activists, oc-

CROWDS/ B10

Abalos knows too much

EXECUTIVE FIAT

Raise case to SC, Palace tells Senate

By Michael Lim Ubac and Leila B. Salaverria

STANDING PAT ON ITS ASSERTION that Romulo Neri did right in invoking executive privilege at the Senate's inquiry into the National Broadband Network project, Malacañang yesterday called on the chamber to take the matter to the Supreme Court.

"The Supreme Court, being the ultimate arbiter of cases like this, [can settle the issue]. I think that's the best thing," Presidential Management Staff chief Cerge Remonde said at a press conference.

Remonde stressed that Neri's invoking of executive privilege on Wednesday to avoid having to answer senators' questions on President Macapagal-Arroyo's involvement in the NBN deal hewed to the Palace's own interpretation of the Supreme Court ruling on Ms Arroyo's Executive Order No. 464.

He was referring to the high court's ruling in February 2006 on the constitutionality of EO 464, which bars the appearance of executive officials at congressional inquiries without the President's consent.

"And if that [decision] of the Supreme Court is being interpreted differently by the executive and the Senate at this time, the best way to resolve that is to once again bring [the issue] to the Supreme Court," he said.

Remonde was echoing the position of Sergio Apostol, the President's legal counsel, that Neri, a former socioeconomic

RAISE CASE/ A17

Teves admits Neri told him about Abalos' bribe offer

ROMULO NERI INFORMED NOT only President Macapagal-Arroyo but also Finance Secretary Margarito Teves about Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr.'s purported offer of P200 million.

Teves himself disclosed this to reporters in New York, saying that Neri, then the director general of the National Economic and Development Authority, had told him about Abalos' alleged bribe attempt to push the approval of the National Broadband Network project in favor of China's ZTE Corp.

But at that time, "I did not put too much attachment to it,"

TEVES ADMITS/ A8

ENVIRONMENTALIST

JOAN BONDOC

PETTING AT THE ZOO Albino Burmese python named Cheese Cake and Marimar, an orangutan in crocks get the full attention of Malabon Zoo owner Manny Tangco. Behind them in a playful mood are tigers Gloria and Erap. Oct. 4 is St. Francis feast.

Poll chief holds ace: He knows where bodies are buried

By Christian V. Esguerra Norman Bordadora

WHO'S AFRAID OF Benjamin Abalos?

Although his back is against the wall, the chair of the Commission on Elections is hanging tough despite an impeachment case against him because he has the "advantage" of knowing where the bodies are buried, a lawmaker claimed yesterday.

"Many people, not only those in Congress but also those in Malacañang, are afraid of Abalos and this could work to his advantage," Bayan Muna Rep. Teodoro Casiño told the INQUIRER yesterday. "He knows so many things about the administration to be dropped like a hot potato."

"He knows too many secrets," Casiño said.

He said that Abalos—under whose watch the "Hello Garci" wiretapping controversy erupted—could spill the beans on the administration in case the impeachment case was supported by the majority coalition in the House of Representatives.

Casiño, one of three lawmakers who have endorsed the impeachment complaint, said Abalos' knowledge of key "secrets" of the Arroyo administra-

ABALOS/ A17

NBN deal straining ties with GMA, admits Gina DV

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes
in Northern Luzon
and Christian V. Esguerra
in Manila

DAGUPAN CITY—GINA DE Venecia, the wife of Speaker Jose de Venecia, admitted yesterday that the exposé of her stepson about the ZTE deal had affected her friendship with President Macapagal-Arroyo whom she described as "like a sister to me."

Gina said she knew Ms Arroyo really got hurt by claims made by Jose "Joey" de Venecia III that the President's husband, Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo, had told him to "back off" from the National Broadband Network (NBN) project.

"But I am also emotionally hurt when they attack my husband and my son," she said.

"You could call it a crack [in the relationship], I don't know. What happened was really difficult for our [respective] families but the issue here is not friendship or relationship but what is [good] for the Filipino people," she said.

Gina attended the opening of the First CSI Sari Sari Store and Livelihood Fair here.

She said she was hurting for Joey, whom she has to look after, because "he is telling the truth."

NBN DEAL/ A17

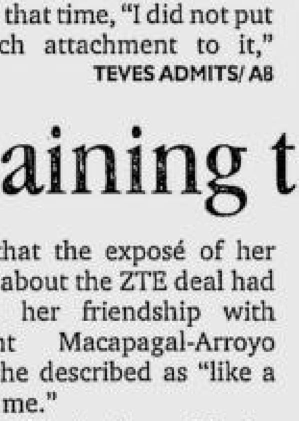
Presidential guards, staff 'shoot' Brad Pitt, go gaga

By Christine O. Avendaño

NEW YORK (VIA PLDT)—THE PRESIDENTIAL guards bumped into Hollywood actor Brad Pitt at the Waldorf-Astoria and shot him—with their digital cameras.

The presidential guards of President Macapagal-Arroyo, along with Palace staffers, found themselves face-to-face with

PRESIDENTIAL/ A8


NA STAR-STRUCK KAYO!

GMA basks in praise from US business

By Christine O. Avendaño

NEW YORK (VIA PLDT)—AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN marvelled at the strength exhibited by the Philippine economy and told President Macapagal-Arroyo of their excitement over business opportunities in the country.

For the second straight day yesterday, the President, who is here to attend the 62nd session of the United Nations General Assembly, basked in the praise from US business and political leaders for the "excellent job" that she was doing of running the economy.

At lunch with 20 leaders of top US companies, Ms Arroyo was praised for her leadership in turning the economy around.

"The statistics tell the story," said Matthew Daley, president of the US-Asean Business Council which organized the luncheon attended by leaders of the Abbott Laboratories, American Investment Group (AIG), Citi, the Coca-Cola Co., Ford Motor Co., Pfizer and Time Warner, among others.

Daley said the Philippines was now experiencing the "highest average economic growth, greatest job creation and lowest inflation."

"And this of course happened under your leadership and I think one of the greatest

GMA BASKS/ A8

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Second FrontPage

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NAKU MAG-INGAT TAYO !

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The eastern sections of Central and Northern Luzon and the provinces of Camarines and Catanduanes will have rains and gusty winds and the coastal waters will be moderate to rough. The rest of the country will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms.

Metro Manila	Mostly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Mostly Cloudy
Baguio	Mostly Cloudy	Roxas	Mostly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Gusty Winds	Cebu	Mostly Cloudy
Laoag	Mostly Cloudy	Tacloban	Mostly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Mostly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Mostly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Mostly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Mostly Cloudy
Legazpi	Gusty Winds	Cagayan de Oro	Mostly Cloudy
Calapan	Gusty Winds	Davao	Mostly Cloudy

COMPILED BY: SCHATZI QUODALA, PDI RESEARCH/09/28/07 SOURCE: PAGASA

EZ2 5 2
FOUR DIGIT 4 3 5 9
(In exact order)
Mid-Day **SUERTRES** Evening
6 8 9 | 5 7 4
MEGALOTTO 6/45
3 4 5 14 24 39
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Floods, landslides feared

'Hanna' intensifies into a storm, hits land today

By TJ Burgonio

TROPICAL DEPRESSION "HANNA" HAS INTENSIfied into a storm and is expected to hit land today, according to the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration.

Pagasa yesterday advised the public to brace for heavy rains in the next two days and take precautions against floods and landslides, particularly in Luzon.

Pagasa raised storm signal no. 2 over Isabela, Quirino, Aurora, Northern Quezon including Polilio Island, Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur and Catanduanes.

Signal No. 1 was raised over Cagayan, Kalinga, Mt. Province, Ifugao, Benguet, Nueva Vizcaya, Nueva Ecija, Bulacan, Rizal, Laguna, Cavite, Batangas, the rest of Quezon, Marinduque, Burias Island, Albay, Sorsogon and Metro Manila.

As of 2 p.m. yesterday, "Hanna" was estimated based on satellite and surface data at 250 kilometers northeast of Virac, Catanduanes with maximum sustained winds of 65 kilometers per hour near the center and gustiness of 80 kph.

It is forecast to move west northwest at 20 kph over the Philippine Sea from Catanduanes to northern Luzon today, according to Pagasa.

The eighth cyclone is the first to make a landfall this year, according to Pagasa.

"This disturbance is bringing heavy rains that can cause flashfloods and landslides," deputy Pagasa director Prisco Nilo said in a briefing.

"Hanna" is expected to swirl overnight from east northeast of Catanduanes to northern Luzon, and hit land between Isabela and Quirino this afternoon.

"The rains will not be limited to areas where storm signal No. 1 is raised. Rains will also be experienced in Bicol, Visayas and Mindanao," Pagasa weather branch chief Nathaniel Cruz said in the briefing.

He said the possibility of floods and landslides was "high" in Luzon.

Metro Manila has been forecast to experience "moderate to heavy rains" between this morning and tomorrow afternoon, according to Nilo.

"We are advising fishermen not to set sail because it's too dangerous," he said. "Hanna" is expected to be 90 km northwest of Baguio City or 110 km north northwest of Dagupan City tomorrow morning, and 550 km west of Baguio City Monday morning.

But even before "Hanna" could hit land, monsoon rains have spawned flashfloods in 15 barangays in Balingasag, a town in Misamis Oriental, according to National Disaster Coordinating Council executive officer Glen Rabonza.

"When it hits land, there will be areas or parts of the country where there will be flooding and landslides," he said in the briefing.

Pagasa said eastern Luzon will experience stormy weather and its coastal waters will be rough to very rough. The rest of Luzon will have rains with occasional gusty winds and the coastal waters over these areas will be moderate to rough. The rest of the country will be cloudy with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms.

Moderate to strong winds blowing from the southwest will prevail over Visayas and Mindanao with moderate to rough seas.

Pagasa forecast at least two cyclones in October, two in November and one in December. With La Niña kicking in the last quarter, most parts of Luzon and Visayas will experience above normal rainfall next month.

La Niña developed from the cooling of the sea surface temperature in the central and eastern Pacific Ocean. It's associated with increased rainfall.

WHAT'S INSIDE

ESPERON, detained officers trade charges /A6

ERAP CAN visit mom again /A3

SAVE MARILOU, kin, pals urge /A4

DOTC rebuts profs on NBN

By Riza T. Olchondra

THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION and Communication (DOTC) yesterday rejected suggestions of two University of the Philippines academics that the controversial national broadband network (NBN) project be scrapped in favor of other schemes.

"The issues of whether the government pursues a broadband project and in what form it will take are in fact policy or judgment calls and not cut-and-dried formulas," the DOTC said.

The agency issued the statement after economics professors Raul Fabella and Emmanuel de Dios testified before the Senate that the controversial NBN project did not make economic sense.

Fabella stressed that the study they had conducted was not against the idea of government providing "last mile connectivity" to agencies and schools, which he said would cost about P5 billion. He said they are against building a new backbone because the emergence of a new backbone would result in underutilization of existing private backbones, leading to price increases.

De Dios suggested that the government instead try a build-operate-transfer (BOT) alternative or use bulk buying to negotiate for lower rates with local telecommunications companies.

In its written rebuttal, DOTC said the BOT scheme would not necessarily lead to lower expenses because the BOT contractor would need to borrow at higher rates of interest—much higher than the Chinese concessional loan and make profits at the same time.

The private proponent may also avoid servicing areas that are unprofitable, a primary reason for coming up with the NBN.

"More importantly, like our other experiences with BOT projects, we may in all likelihood end up subsidizing the BOT proponent. So it's very possible [that] government's telecommunications expenses may go up instead of down if we do BOT," DOTC said.

As to bulk buying, the DOTC claimed that telcos cannot give government preferential rates as this will mean discriminating against private consumers. In other words, bulk buying will result in consumers subsidizing government telecommunication expenses as the telecom carriers will want to recoup the discount given to government.

"The NBN, on the other hand, will, aside from radically reducing the telecommunication expenses of government, may in all likelihood raise revenues for the government with no additional cost to the individual subscribers. The reason for this is simple—carriers interconnecting with the government's VOIP network will have to share part of their revenues for calls originating from their networks and terminating at the government's VOIP network. This is the mandate of the NTC memorandum circular on VOIP," the DOTC said.

Miriam blows hot and cold in budget hearings

By Dona Pazzibugan

SEN. MIRIAM DEFENSOR-SANTIAGO blew hot and cold when she presided over back-to-back budget hearings yesterday.

Discarding her trademark acerbic demeanor, Santiago allowed Energy Secretary Angelo Reyes, whom she had accused of incompetence, to breeze through his department's budget hearing.

Santiago, chair of the Senate energy committee, only asked Reyes to explain the relatively huge allocation given to the newly-formed National Biofuels Board as the panel considered the Department of Energy's budget proposal of P997.1 million for next year.

She did not refute any statement made by Reyes, who turned to another DOE official for coaching before he answered.

After only about 30 minutes, the senator declared, "That's all!" She then excused Reyes and the DOE officials from the rest of the budget hearing held inside the Senate's Sen. Claro M. Recto Room.

Later, Reyes told reporters he was happy that the hearing went smoothly. "It was fine, enlightening," said the retired military general who had headed three other departments.

But Santiago told reporters she was not satisfied with Reyes' answers and only decided not to press her points in the meantime.

Santiago had vehemently opposed Reyes' latest appointment.

The DOE budget hearing followed that of the Department of Labor and Employment, where—it seemed inevitably—Santiago blew her top.

Surprised by the outburst

Annoyed by the noise from cell phones, crowd murmurs and the door squeaking due to the comings and goings of spectators, Santiago vented her ire at almost everybody in the room.

"I don't like you walking around. You are like senators," Santiago shouted.

"Even the secretariat are abusive sometimes. Even the pages, you act like you're senators," she continued.

"You are always demanding government to give better service. Now we're doing serious work, you're making fun of it."

Surprised by the outburst everyone sat unmoving in their seats, including Labor Secretary Arturo Brion, several top officials and the heads of line agencies.

Santiago ordered that all cell phones be switched to the silent mode. The security staff meanwhile locked the main door to still the offending squeaks.

Santiago has recently come under fire for her remarks at the Sept. 26 Senate inquiry into the ZTE Corp.'s $329-million national broadband network project, where she linked the Chinese civilization to corruption.

The senator wrote to Chinese Ambassador Song Tao Sept. 27 to apologize for her remarks, pointing out her husband was part Chinese.

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Sandiganbayan grants Erap permit to visit ailing mother in hospital

By Jocelyn R. Uy

CONVICTED FORMER President Joseph Estrada will visit his ailing mother at the San Juan Medical Center today.

The Sandiganbayan Special Division yesterday granted anew the ousted leader a 10-hour special pass so he could spend more time with the 102-year-old Mary Ejercito, whose condition has been deteriorating since her confinement on Aug. 10.

Today's visit will be Estrada's first after the antigraft court convicted him of plunder two weeks ago and sentenced him to up to 40 years imprisonment.

Early this week, Estrada filed a motion informing the court that his mother's condition had worsened due to an infection she recently acquired.

The Estrada family doctor, Lorenzo Hocson, wrote to the convicted leader that he had started administering antibiotics to Ejercito for the infection.

The last time Estrada saw his mother in the hospital was three days before the court promulgated its decision on his six-year-old plunder case. The former president was allowed a 10-hour visit to the hospital to seek her blessing before confronting his fate.

In granting the former president another special pass, the court informed the police and the Sandiganbayan Sheriff's Office that Estrada is allowed to stay in the hospital only until 5 p.m. today.

No fanfare in Marcos' 18th death anniversary

By Cristina Arzadon
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BATAC CITY—ILOCANOS QUIETLY MARKED yesterday the 18th death anniversary of their favorite son, Ferdinand Marcos, who died in exile in Hawaii on Sept. 28, 1989.

Unlike the strongman's 90th birthday on Sept. 11 when Ilocanos joined former first lady Imelda Marcos in marking Marcos Day as a special event, local officials made no special preparations to mark his death anniversary.

A congressional staff member here of Ilocos Norte Rep. Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. said the Marcos family merely offered Mass at the Batac Cathedral in honor of the late strongman. No family member, however, was around for the occasion.

Marcos' remains have been kept inside an air-conditioned mausoleum at the Marcos ancestral house here since he was flown from Hawaii in 1993.

Libingan burial

His widow has been asking the government to allow her husband's body to be buried at the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

Mrs. Marcos, however, has started developing a mountainous lot in the village of San Pedro here as a proposed burial ground should efforts to have her husband interred at the Libingan fail.

The Marcos widow named the burial ground as the Maharlika eco-park presumably in reference to the so-called "Ang Maharlika" guerrilla force in Northern Luzon that her husband led during World War II.

The clearing of the burial site has been observed as an indication that Mrs. Marcos is no longer keen on pursuing a hero's burial for her husband.

The former First Lady did not bring along her legions of Marcos loyalists on her last visit to Ilocos Norte when she led provincial officials and residents in marking the strongman's birthday on Sept. 11.

The widow merely offered Mass at the Batac church and at the air-conditioned mausoleum where her husband's frozen remains are kept.

She also visited the Maharlika eco-park in San Pedro. Accompanied by her husband's nephew, Ilocos Norte Gov. Michael Keon, Mrs. Marcos led a simple ceremony in the presence of local officials to inaugurate the site.

Burial in Paradise

The eco-park is being jointly developed by another Marcos nephew, Board Member Mariano Marcos II, and investors from the Fort Ilocandia Resort and Casino which is run by Chinese businessman Jack Lam.

"Perhaps, (Godly spirit) doesn't want the late president to have a burial ground at the Libingan but in the paradise (Maharlika Park) that the Lord has created," Mrs. Marcos said.

She said, however, she would continue working on having her husband accorded a hero's burial.

"If there's one person who had been persecuted in life and in death (it was Marcos). For two decades, he has been denied an honorable burial," she said.

"This vilification continues.... When he topped the bar, they said he cheated, when he was awarded medals of valor, they said they were fake. And when he was a strong leader, they said he was a dictator."

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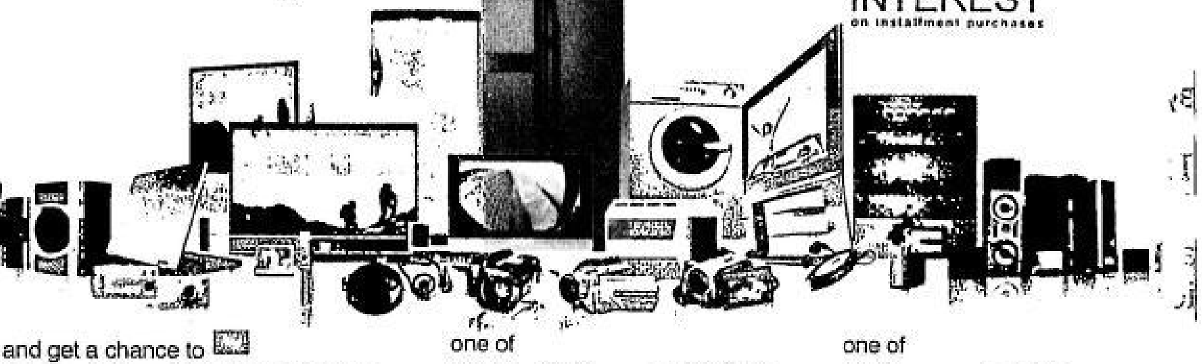

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Tourists staying longer in RP—BI

By Margaux C. Ortiz

MORE FOREIGN TOURISTS are opting to stay longer in the country, making the Philippines "one of the most favored tourist destinations in the Asia-Pacific."

Bureau of Immigration chief Marcelino Libanan made this observation yesterday, saying that foreign visitors have paid more than P370 million to the government just to extend their stay in the country.

Libanan said that BI's collections from visa extension fees from January to August 2007 amounted to P370.17 million, up by P57.9 million or 18 percent from the P312.2 million generated during the same period last year.

"The income was sourced from 151,066 applications for extension of stay of tourists which the bureau approved during the eight-month period," the BI chief said in a statement, citing statistics from the immigration visa extension office.

Libanan added that approved extensions of stay increased by 16 percent from the 129,666 applications for extension that the bureau granted from January to August 2006.

"Visa extension fees accounted for a large chuck of the BI's revenue collection over the past few years as the number of tourists who visited the country has steadily grown," Libanan said.

The immigration chief said the figures indicated that more and more foreign tourists are visiting and prolonging their stay in the Philippines.

"The numbers speak for themselves. Our country is fast emerging as one of the most favored tourist destinations in the Asia-Pacific," Libanan said.

He added, "The fact that foreign tourists are entering our country in droves is an indication that foreign investors' confidence in our country has tremendously improved as President Macapagal-Arroyo had stated in her last State of the Nation Address."

Libanan noted that foreign tourists visited the country not only for pleasure but also to consider investment and business opportunities.

He also reported that more foreigners arrived in the country from January to August, compared to the same period last year.

Save Marilou Ranario! Migrante Int
NO TO ANOTHER FLOR CONTEMPLACION SAVE MARILOU RANARIO!

SUPPORTERS of Marilou Ranario light candles to save her from execution.

JOAN BONDOC

'NEW FLOR CONTEMPLACION'

Save Marilou, kin, pals urge

By Jeannette I. Andrade

SHE WANTED TO LIFT HER FAMILY FROM poverty so she decided to work in Kuwait as a domestic helper although she was qualified to be a teacher in the Philippines.

But the dreams of Marilou Ranario, 35, may no longer find fulfillment after she ended up on death row in Kuwait for allegedly stabbing her employer to death in 2005.

Ranario's relatives, her neighbors in Barangay Holy Spirit, Quezon City and members of Migrante International are now racing against time to try to save her from being executed.

"Our campaign to save her life is about raising public awareness about the greatest heights of exploitation and injustice Marilou and other OFWs on death row suffer," Migrante International secretary general Maita Santiago told a press conference yesterday.

Ranario has been scheduled for execution in January or February next year.

White and blue ribbons

But it was reportedly only during the last week of December 2005 that the Ranario family learned of Marilou's fate and it was 10 months later that they were informed by the Department of Foreign Affairs that she had been sentenced to death.

She was found guilty of stabbing to death on Jan. 11, 2005, her employer Najat Mahmoud Faraj Mubarak in Salwa.

She claimed to have been prompted to kill her employer out of her apprehension that Mubarak had been planning to hurt her. The misconception was a result allegedly of months of unfair labor practices, maltreatment and abuse.

Yesterday, Ranario's friends and relatives tied white and blue ribbons around electric posts along Commonwealth Avenue and streets leading to Barangay Holy Spirit to call for prayers and support for the pending appeal of Ranario's case before the Supreme Court of Kuwait.

"Let us not waste time. Let us not wait after Marilou is gone. We must act now and save Marilou," Kenneth Causon of the Barangay Holy Spirit-based KC Movement appealed to the public.

They likewise held a candlelight vigil in Barangay Holy Spirit to create public awareness that another OFW has been scheduled for execution.

Appeal for prayers

Allan Ranario, Marilou's younger brother, personally asked Filipinos to join their family and their friends in prayer for her safety. He told the Philippine Daily Inquirer that it was his sister's only request.

Allan also appealed to the government in behalf of Marilou's children, saying "They want their mother back."

Marilou is the fourth child in a brood of 10. But only two of them finished college. She finished her education degree at the Northeastern Mindanao Colleges (Nemco).

But driven by the need to alleviate her family from poverty and the lack of opportunities in the country, she immediately went abroad after finishing her course, Allan pointed out.

Before she left for Kuwait on Dec. 10, 2003, Marilou had told members of her family to take very good care of her children. Marilou has three children: Raffy, John and Roselle, by her common law husband Lolito Dalubatan.

"Marilou is today's Flor Contemplacion. She is a young mother and former teacher who wanted little more that a better life for herself and her family. The struggle to save their lives will involve a broad range of actions at the local, national and international level. We also seek to expose and make accountable the Arroyo administration over its criminal neglect of their plight," Santiago stressed.

DFA pledges help for doomed Pinays

By Tarra Quismundo

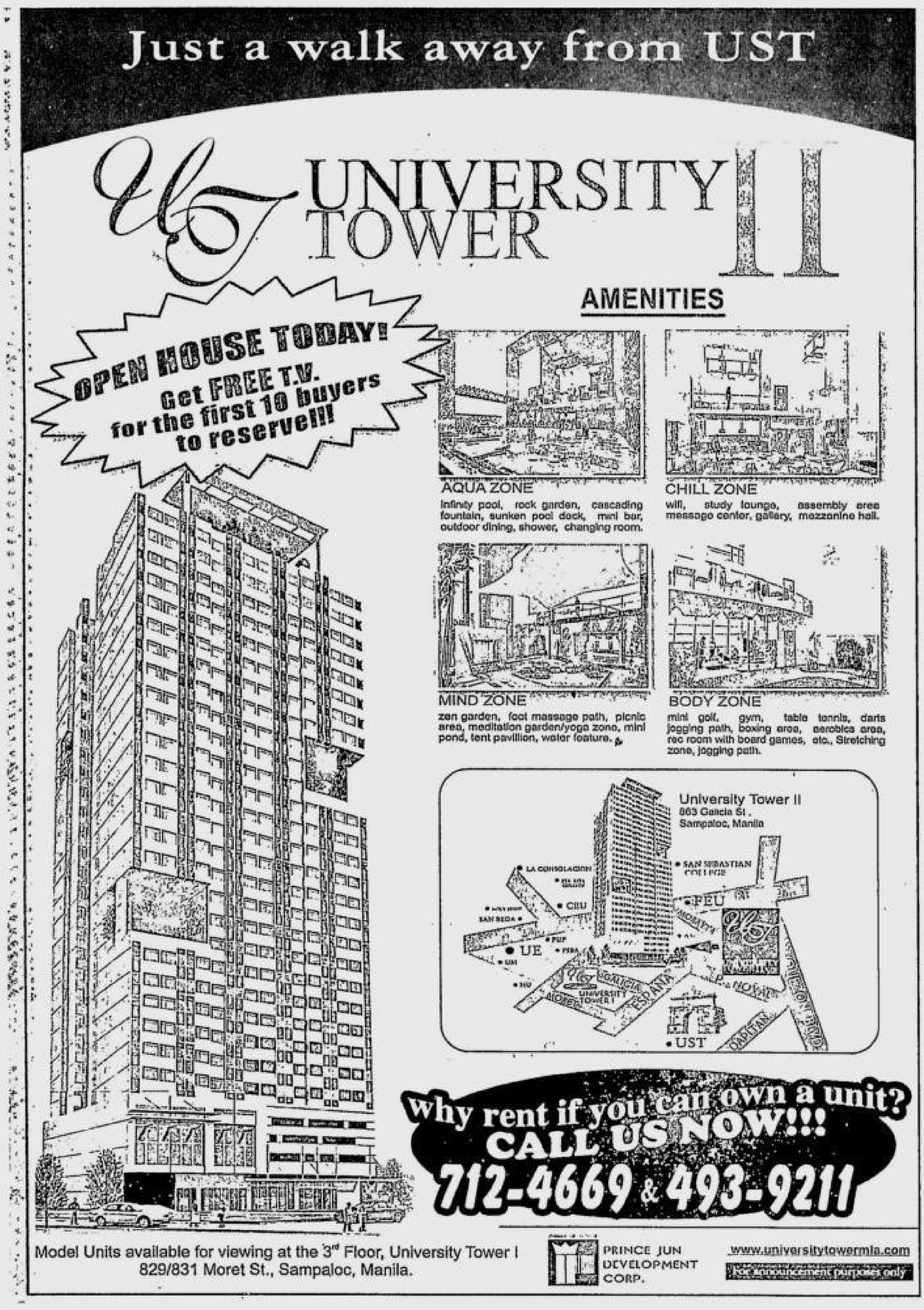
THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (DFA) yesterday assured its continuous legal assistance to Filipino domestic helpers facing death penalty in Kuwait.

Foreign Undersecretary for Migrant Workers Affairs Esteban Conejos Jr. said yesterday that "the best lawyers" in Kuwait have been helping out in appealing the cases of May Vecina and Marilou Ranario, migrant workers convicted of crimes punishable by death in the oil-rich state.

The Kuwait appeals court on Wednesday upheld the death sentence meted on Vecina for killing her employer's son, an 11-year-old, and stabbing the boy's 17-year-old sister after an argument with her bosses.

The case is up for automatic appeal to Kuwait's High Court.

Ranario, who had admitted to killing her employer in January 2005 after her boss allegedly berated Filipinos, meanwhile stands a chance for a lesser sentence through an appeals process in the Kuwaiti Supreme Court, said Conejos.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Another Pinoy seized in Nigeria

By Tarra Quismundo

THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFfairs (DFA) yesterday confirmed that a Filipino electrician working for an Italian oil company has been kidnapped in Nigeria, the 10th abduction incident involving Philippine citizens in the oil-rich African country since 2006.

Foreign Affairs Undersecretary for Migrant Workers Affairs Esteban Conejos Jr. told reporters yesterday that the Filipino worker was one of two foreigners seized by unidentified gunmen during an attack on an Italian-run company in Port Harcourt on Thursday evening.

"We've received a report from our embassy in Abuja that one OFW (overseas Filipino worker) was abducted in Port Harcourt, Nigeria... So at this time, the report is very sketchy and we're trying to get details about this incident... We're closely monitoring this particular event," Conejos said.

"The kidnappers reportedly barged into the workplace and snatched the workers there," Conejos said.

Conejos, however, declined to identify the kidnapped Filipino worker, saying the DFA would only release his name once the family has been informed.

He, however, assured that the abducted Filipino worker is safe." Our OFW is alive, he's just in custody now," Conejos said.

Conejos said Philippine authorities would work for the Filipino's release through Nigerian authorities, who "are responsible for the safety of everybody in their jurisdiction."

He said he would leave it to the Nigerian government to negotiate with the kidnappers and reiterated Manila's policy of refusing to pay ransom.

The report from Conejos came a day after authorities in Nigeria said gunmen killed a Colombian oil worker and kidnapped at least one other foreigner in an attack on a riverside compound.

Reports indicated that 10 gunmen in military attire attacked the Port Harcourt construction yard of oil services company Saipem, a firm under the control of Italian oil giant Eni.

A Colombian oil worker was killed during the raid, while another Colombian and the Filipino worker were seized.

The attack occurred after a rebel group Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) threatened to attack oil companies in Nigeria following the arrest of a MEND leader in Angola. The group, however, said it was not involved in the attack, Reuters reported.

Several Filipino workers, including seafarers, electricians, welders, and oil workers, had been kidnapped and later released back to safety in separate incidents in January, February and May.

There are between 4,000 to 4,500 Filipinos working in Nigeria's bustling oil industry.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has banned additional workers from going there after 26 Filipinos were abducted in January and February. All were safely released.

In May, eight Filipinos and three South Koreans were seized from their heavily guarded compound. They were freed after a week.

Other foreign workers have also been targets of abductions in Nigeria's oil-rich states, where rebel groups have been using violence to claim a share of the country's oil wealth. *With AP, Reuters reports*

CHEUNG

HK pop star defends firing of RP maids

HONG KONG—HONG KONG POP SINGER Jacky Cheung hit out at claims he has fired 21 Filipina maids in three years, saying he was an "ordinary employer," a report said Friday.

The popular crooner, who has been banned from hiring helpers from the Philippines for a year, said he could not remember how many maids he and his wife had hired and fired over the years, the South China Morning Post reported.

"I consider myself an ordinary employer. Many of my friends terminate their maids' contracts and I believe it is normal in any employment," he was quoted as saying from the eastern Chinese province of Zhejing, where he was on his concert tour.

"An employer can fire an employee if he or she fails to perform, whilst an employee can also resign if he or she is not happy about the employer.

"Is there anything wrong if we fire a maid when we find out that she is not helpful?" the 46-year-old said.

Cheung, who has been dubbed "the Terminator" by domestic workers, said some of them resigned on their first day after seeing there were too many stairs at the four-storey luxury home he shares with his wife and two young daughters.

The Philippine consulate said Thursday it has placed Cheung and his wife, a former actress, on its banned list of sub-standard employers for one year.

Cheung said his four latest maids all resigned after they found out he had been blacklisted a few weeks ago, leaving him with no hired help. He now relied on his mother, relatives and friends to help, and was recruiting maids from other countries, according to the Post.

Cheung, one of Hong Kong's biggest stars, rose to fame in the mid-1980s. Like most stars here, Cheung has been packaged as an all-round entertainer, starring in a number of hit local films as well as singing Canto-pop, a hybrid of Chinese ballads and Western pop. *AFP*

UST loses case against 4 nurses

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS HAS lost its case to prosecute and stop four United States-bound nurses from leaving for allegedly reneging on their agreement to teach at the said institution for at least two years in exchange for granting them financial assistance in their further studies.

The Court of Appeals upheld the Manila regional trial court's dismissal of UST's complaint against the four on a technicality, saying the summons to the nurses for the complaint were not properly served.

The failure to serve the summons to Mildred Teves, Ruby Puyo, Laarni Catudan and Emma Aquino meant that the RTC did not acquire jurisdiction over the four nurses, according to the appellate court.

It also said the sheriff failed to explain why no personal service was made.

"For such failure of the sheriff, the RTC also failed to acquire jurisdiction over the persons of the defendants-appellants," it said.

"Hence ... the lower court was correct in dismissing the complaint without prejudice for failure of the court to acquire jurisdiction over the persons of the defendants-appellees."

But the appellate court disagreed with the RTC's finding that UST had no cause of action against the nurses. Nevertheless, it upheld the dismissal of the complaint because of the failure to serve the summons.

The nurses had sought financial assistance from UST to take up courses at the De La Salle University to comply with the requirement that requires faculty members of nursing schools to be holders of master's degree in nursing.

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Esperon, detained officers trade charges

ARMED FORCES CHIEF GEN. HERmogenes Esperon Jr. and the Marine and Army Scout Ranger officers detained on coup d'etat charges in Tanay, Rizal, have traded accusations against each other amid allegations by the military chief that the detainees were involved in fresh attempts at destabilization.

Esperon yesterday said the group, led by former Marine commandant Maj. Gen. Renato Miranda, Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim and Col. Ariel Querubin, were "destabilizers whose only interest is to grab power."

"The national interest for peace and stability and progress are farthest from their aspirations," Esperon said.

Esperon recently implicated the detained officers in new attempts to topple the government, claiming that those behind the attempt to recruit troops for the destabilization move were "closely connected" to the group.

At a court-martial hearing in Camp Capinpin yesterday, the wives of the detained officers sported T-shirts that called on "a few good men" to rise up for the country.

ESPERON

In a text message sent to reporters, Esperon dismissed the wives' action as a juvenile attempt at propaganda.

The detainees challenged the military to "substantiate" its claim that junior officers have been sanctioned for allegedly recruiting comrades to join another coup plot.

Without proof, "a statement like this is only paranoid," the group said.

"[It is] psy-war to threaten and manipulate our soldiers to conform to their own destabilization to further their greed for power and exploit this country," the group said.

"The destabilization is of their own doing. The Armed Forces leadership has now become the permanent vehicle to suppress voices of truth," they said.

The group said it believes that majority of soldiers share their sentiment.

"Active or passive participation in the electoral process by the military top brass is a violation of that sworn oath which will forever haunt Esperon," they said.

Esperon has been linked to allegations of electoral fraud in 2004, after his name was mentioned in the "Hello, Garci" tapes. He has denied the allegations.

Miranda, Lim, Querubin, and 25 other officers are being tried before a military court on charges that they led a failed attempt to grab power in February 2006. *Nikko Dizon*

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Accused general 'very sick'

THE DETAINED FORMER MARINE COMmandant, Maj. Gen. Renato Miranda, needs immediate medical attention but the military has denied his request for hospitalization, according to former Army Scout Ranger chief Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim, Miranda's fellow detainee.

"Gen. Miranda is very, very sick," Lim told the court-martial panel hearing their case yesterday.

Miranda and Lim are being detained at the Camp Capinpin Army camp in Tanay, Rizal, while undergoing trail for allegedly plotting to oust the government in February 2006.

MIRANDA

Lim said the military was ignoring Miranda's "serious medical needs."

He said Miranda asked to be hospitalized but his request was denied by former camp commander Gen. Alfred Cayton.

Cayton supposedly said that Miranda was a "security risk."

"Some people are playing God... Why are they so stingy when it comes to health problems? We are not yet convicted criminals," Lim said.

In a statement, Lim said that Miranda has been ill for the past two weeks. He said at one time the general had collapsed in the bathroom.

Miranda is suffering from diabetes, high cholesterol and vertigo, he said.

Court-martial president Maj. Gen. Jogy Leo Fojas directed the court to coordinate with the convening authority so that Miranda can be given medical attention. *Nikko Dizon*

500 barred from RP for terror links

MORE THAN 500 people, including a former United States attorney general, are on a Philippine government blacklist, banned from entering the country because of supposed links to terrorist groups, an international human rights group said yesterday.

Human Rights Watch said in a statement it obtained a copy of a Philippine government blacklist banning 504 people from more than 50 countries said to have al-Qaida or Taliban links from entering the country in July and August.

But many of those on the list were human rights advocates, including the former US attorney general Ramsey Clark, Human Rights Watch said, accusing the Philippines of using the list to stop critics of the government entering the country.

"Labeling peaceful critics as al-Qaida or Taliban only serves to sap public confidence in counter-terror measures and exposes them as a cover for suppressing dissent," said Sophie Richardson, Human Rights Watch Asia advocacy director.

"The government's blacklisting of its critics is shocking in a country that prides itself on being a democracy that values free speech. Many people on this blacklist have done little more than criticize the government or work to protect Filipinos from the country's abusive security forces," she said.

The Bureau of Immigration and justice department blacklist includes expatriate Filipinos and members of US-based organizations such as Church World Service, the Methodist Church General Board of Church and Society, the National Lawyers Guild and the Center for Constitutional Rights.

It also includes individuals working for the International Labor Solidarity Mission, and from Philippine unions and civil society organizations such as the left-wing political group Bayan and women's group Gabriela.

Human Rights Watch said the blacklist came into effect on July 24 and was "apparently" lifted on Aug. 10.

"According to a Philippine foreign ministry official, the list was put in place at the time of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) ministerial meeting held in Manila from July 21 to Aug. 2," Human Rights Watch said.

"Since the government did not publicly announce the blacklist, it is not clear whether this or any other blacklist is in effect at present," it said.

The rights group called on President Macapagal-Arroyo to clarify whether any blacklists were still in effect and to make a commitment to end bans on non-violent government critics. *AFP*

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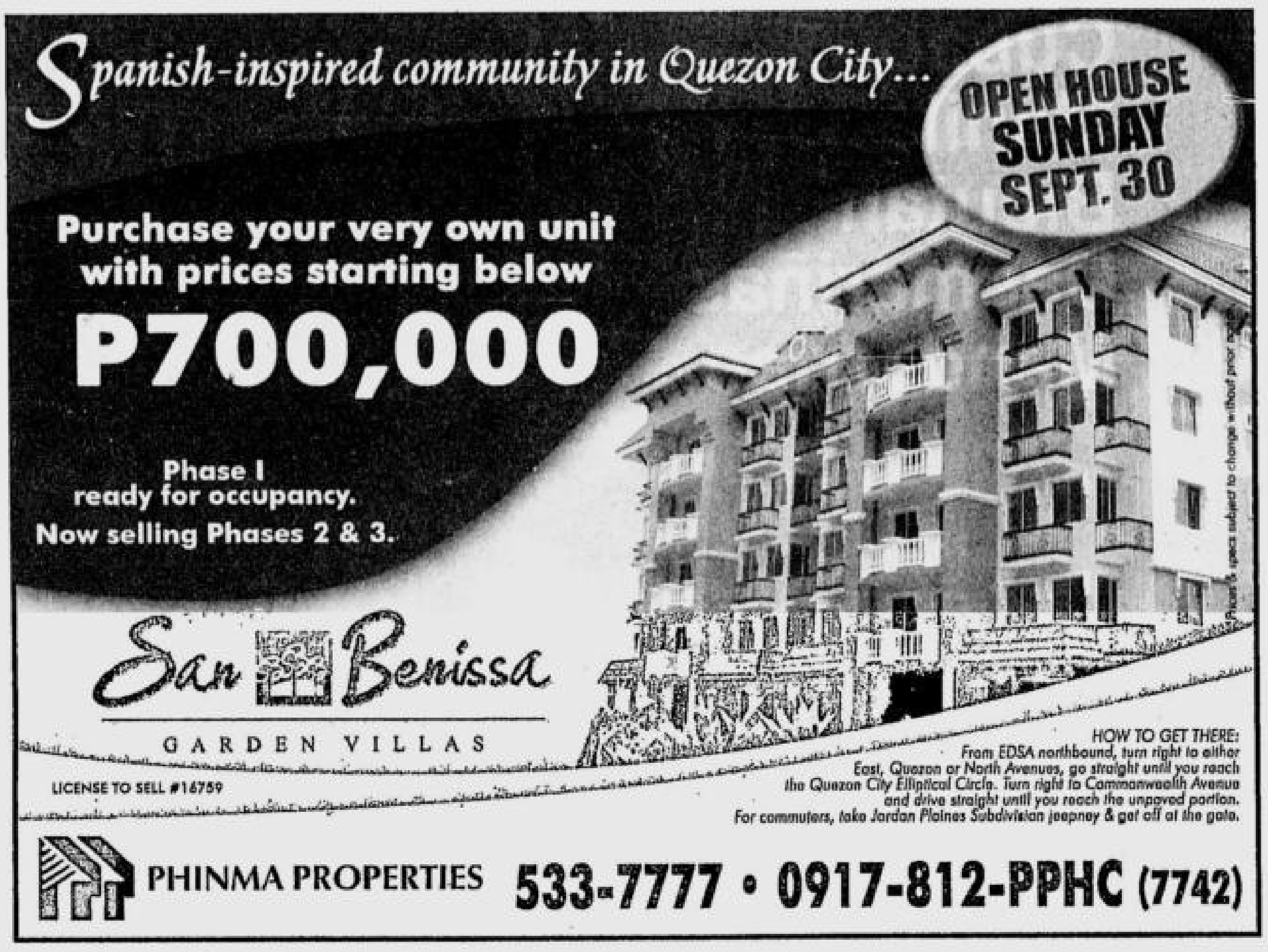
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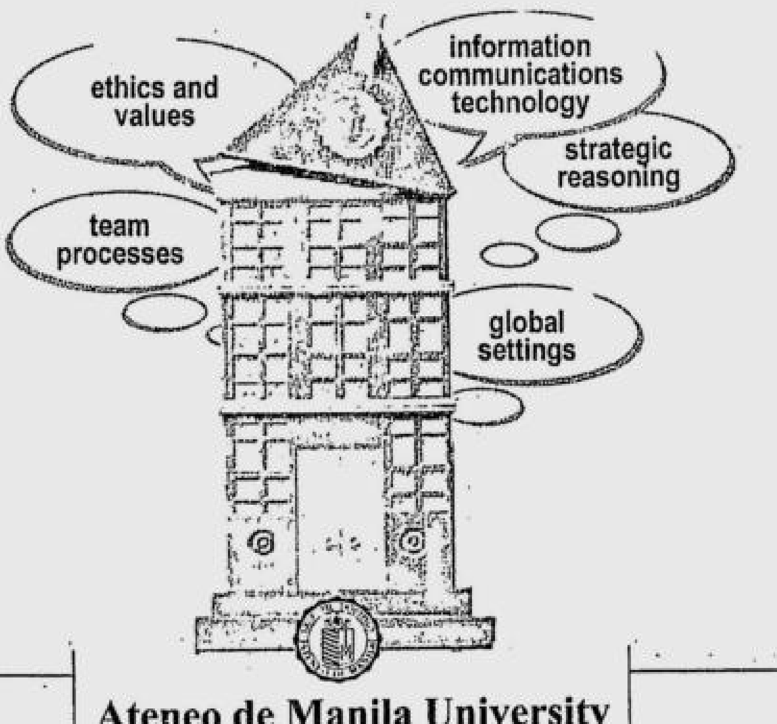

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GMA basks in praise from US business

From page A1

challenges now is to focus perception to catch up with that reality," Daley told Ms Arroyo, adding that a mission from the US-Asean Business Council would be going to Manila in October.

At a forum the day before, Ms Arroyo also received praise for having turned around the economy from former US President Bill Clinton, who described the President as a former classmate at Georgetown University and a friend of many years.

Ms Arroyo later told reporters that she was "happy that he [Clinton] thinks that way."

Martin Sullivan, president and CEO of AIG, said the attendance of top US businessmen at the luncheon for the President showed "how the US business community sees the Philippines and its importance in regional and global scales."

Sullivan also praised Ms Arroyo for the excellent job she was doing of running the Philippine economy.

"It has shown tremendous progress under her leadership and she also recognizes quite clearly the long-standing bilateral relationships between the Philippines and the US," he said.

Ms Arroyo thanked the businessmen for their kind words.

On path to permanent growth

"I am very happy and grateful for your willingness to share the good news about the Philippines with the rest of the American business community," she said.

PRESIDENT Arroyo is the guest of honor at a luncheon organized by the United States-Asean Business Council headed by its president Matthew Daley (third from right) on Thursday at the Waldorf Astoria in New York. The gathering of top US businessmen was hosted by American Investment Group president/CEO Martin Sullivan (partly hidden beside Ms Arroyo).

MALACAÑANG PHOTO

She told them that what they were seeing now was a Philippines "on the path to permanent growth and stability."

"Why do I say permanent? Following the pain of raising taxes with the gain of investing the proceeds in human and physical infrastructure, we should bring in investments and create jobs and that is the source of long-lasting economic growth and development," she said.

She then touted the "billion dollar plus investments" that the Philippines has gotten from, among other sources, the US-based Texas Instruments, Korea's Hanjin and Japan's Marubeni.

"Let me assure you that our administration will continue to focus like a laser beam on the economy because I think that focus has gone behind our best economic performance in 20 years and I hope to continue this focus to make the Philippines a better place for American investment," she said.

She delivered the same message at a dinner for US companies which attended a business processing outsourcing summit seminar hosted by the Philippine American Chamber here.

The President said the BPO conference was "oversubscribed," noting that many wanted to join.

BPO so big

"The success in the BPO industry contributed mightily to the economic renaissance going on in the Philippines right now," she told her audience.

The outsourcing industry, she said, was so big now that it was slated to be a $12-billion industry by 2010.

She said the business processing outsourcing "has become the fastest growing sector in the economy, providing 300,000 new jobs."

"But we do not want to rest on our laurels," she said.

Having established strength in call centers, the government was now focused on "growing the higher value-added services segment of the knowledge process outsourcing industry, including accounting, legal, human resources and administrative services," she said.

"We are excited by your presence here. We encourage those who have invested, to continue to do so. And to those of you who are just getting to know the Philippines, we urge you to come explore all that the country has to offer you and your business," the President said.

Presidential guards 'shoot' Brad Pitt—with cameras, go gaga

From page A1

the first man ever to be named "Sexiest Man Alive" twice by People Magazine near the elevator leading to the private rooms at the Waldorf-Astoria here.

Ms Arroyo, who is here attending the 62nd session of the United Nations General Assembly, is staying at the Waldorf.

Some of the staff went gaga and whipped out their digital cameras for a picture with Pitt, who coolly posed with them.

The star of the "Oceans" series was wearing a hat and dark glasses—a disguise which failed to hide his handsome good looks, according to one PSG member.

Alas, Pitt's partner, Hollywood actress Angelina Jolie, was nowhere in sight.

Starstruck

Pitt and Jolie had attended a forum of the Clinton Global Initiative (CGI) held the previous day in another hotel here. Ms Arroyo herself attended the same forum the same day as the Hollywood super-couple.

Upon the invitation of former US President Bill Clinton, who organized the CGI in 2005, Ms Arroyo joined other notable people like former US Vice President Al Gore and South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu in a discussion on climate change and religious tensions that was moderated by Clinton himself.

Equally starstruck, but with the theater world, was Ms Arroyo, who admitted to being "entranced" by the performance last Wednesday of multi-awarded Filipino singer-actress Lea Salonga in the Broadway production of "Les Miserables."

In a chat with reporters on Thursday, the President said she had seen the musical before and that she used to write scripts and music for school plays.

Creative side

"That was my creative side before," Ms Arroyo said, noting that it was a different world when she joined the academe and went into politics later on.

This prompted Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye to disclose that the President had acted in a Visayan television series in the '90s.

A grinning Ms Arroyo said she was still a senator when she agreed to appear in the telenovela "Bastonero" which was shown in Cebu.

She said she played the role of a mother whose daughter was a rape victim.

And yes, Ms Arroyo had a crying scene where she cried real tears because she was moved by her "daughter's" good dramatic acting.

Teves admits Neri told him about Abalos' bribe offer

From page A1

Teves said on Thursday. The finance secretary is part of the entourage of Ms Arroyo, who is in New York with other heads of state to attend the 62nd session of the UN General Assembly.

Abalos has denied the alleged bribe attempt, into which Malacañang has supposedly ordered a formal inquiry.

Speaking at a press conference yesterday in Manila, Presidential Management Staff chief Cerge Remonde said the National Bureau of Investigation was "among the agencies being considered" by the Palace to conduct the formal probe.

Remonde made the announcement when asked if Ms Arroyo decided to order a full investigation after Neri's testimony on the supposed bribe attempt at a Senate hearing on Wednesday.

"We've discussed that, and I think Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita [has] already set up a formal investigation," he said.

Underway, but maybe not

Asked whether the formal investigation was underway, Remonde said Ermita had "already set that into motion."

He said Ermita could provide "more details" at the regular briefing in Malacañang next week.

But Ermita was clueless about the supposed formal investigation.

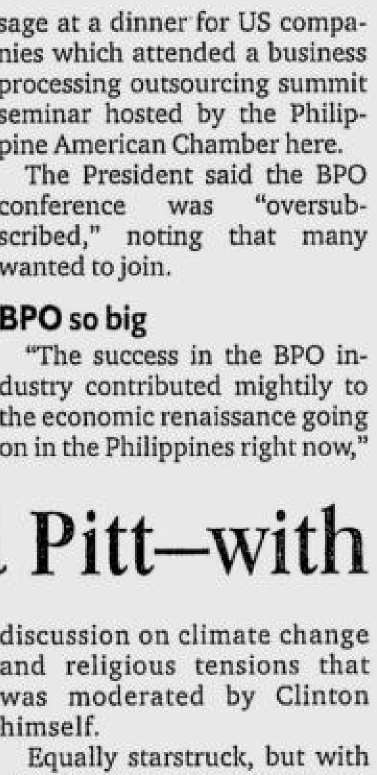
"I don't know what Secretary Remonde was talking about. I can't say… I have yet to discuss this with [him]. Maybe there is something to ask him," Ermita told reporters at Camp Aguinaldo.

The executive secretary pointed out that a "discreet" probe into the NBN controversy had yielded nothing.

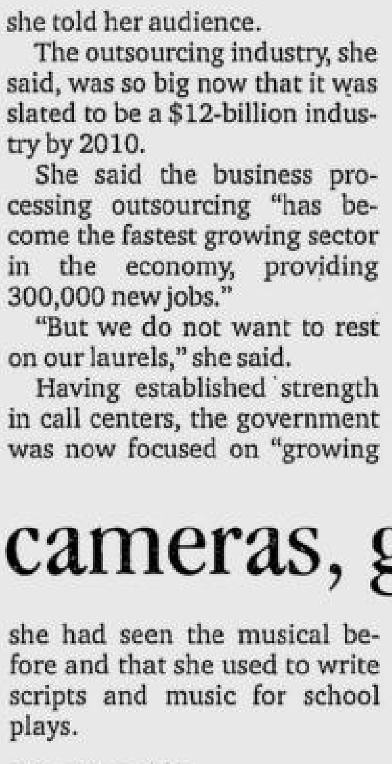
He sought to make certain distinctions: "There is such a thing as a discreet investigation and a formal investigation. If there are enough elements [in the discreet investigation] to move forward to a formal investigation, then we will do that."

'Uncorroborated'

Before she left for New York on Tuesday night, the President said in a speech that according to a "discreet" investigation, reports of bribery in connection with the NBN deal were unfounded.



TEVES: Nonchalant



NERI: Opened up to colleague

"When we learned of an alleged bribery attempt in connection with the broadband project, we instructed that the matter be discreetly investigated," she said, adding without elaboration:

"The results of the investigation were reported as uncorroborated."

At a press conference the next day, Ermita said the secret investigation was conducted by Teves and Trade Secretary Peter Favila soon after the controversy broke out.

Ermita said it was done informally but also covered other issues surrounding the NBN deal, and "not just what Secretary Neri had informed [the President]."

He said Ms Arroyo's instruction to the two Cabinet members was to "look into all this talk about bribery [and] all this talk surrounding this deal."

Ermita said that in their verbal report to the President, Favila and Teves said the bribery reports could not be substantiated.

Neither heads nor tails

Ermita maintained at the same press conference that the reports of bribery in connection with the NBN deal were "uncorroborated" despite Neri's testimony at the Senate.

"At this point in time, we cannot make heads or tails of all this talk about bribery. That is the reason we feel that there's no corroboration whatsoever, as far as charges coming from people that there were bribes offered [are concerned]," he said.

Ermita said it was not for him to prejudge Neri, now the chair of the Commission on Higher Education (CHEd). But he pointed out that in the same Senate hearing, Abalos denied having attempted to bribe Neri.

He said "the proper venue, the court of law," should determine the correct conclusion to the case.

Taking a leaf from Sen. Miriam Santiago's observation during the hearing, he said "it's for the appropriate forum to determine who could be telling the full truth, who could be telling a half-truth, or who might be telling a lie."

Before Neri's testimony at the Senate, Ermita said there was "nothing very definite about the facts and the evidence that would warrant a full-scale investigation," but that the Palace would "pursue" one if warranted.

He said it was up to Ms Arroyo to determine, after the conclusion of the Senate inquiry, "whether there is basis for a full-scale, formal investigation."

Lost moral ascendancy

Antonio Tinio, chair of the 15,000-strong Alliance of Concerned Teachers (ACT) said Neri had "lost the moral ascendancy" to lead the CHEd, and should resign.

Tinio also assailed Neri for refusing to reveal what he knew about Ms Arroyo's possible involvement in the NBN deal.

He said Neri had "proven himself to be no different from the Marcos-era technocrats who came face to face with plunder but willingly toed Malacañang's line."

According to Tinio, both the NBN project and the Cyber Education Project of the Department of Education were "grossly disadvantageous to the people."

He said Neri "must be held accountable" for approving these projects. *Reports from Christine O. Avendaño in New York; Michael Lim Ubac, Alcuin Papa and Jerry E. Esplanada in Manila*

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3. HOUSE RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT PTE., LTD. (CAVITE BRANCH) PEZA, Rosario, Cavite	Mr. Yukio Morita/ Japanese	Manager - Frame
4. HOUSE RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT PTE., LTD. (CAVITE BRANCH) PEZA, Rosario, Cavite	Mr. Kenichi Sugawara/ Japanese	Manager – Frame Maintenance
5 HOUSE RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT PTE., LTD. (CAVITE BRANCH) PEZA, Rosario, Cavite	Mr. Keita Tamaki/ Japanese	Technical Adviser – R & D Bay Window
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If you have any information/objection to the above-mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. RICARDO S. MARTINEZ, SR., CESO III**
Regional Director

(PDI–September 29, 2007)

Ban on human rights films lifted

THE MOVIE REVIEW BOARD has lifted a virtual ban on a collection of short films about human rights violations following an appeal by the moviemakers, but restricted them to viewers aged 13 and above, a member of the review board said Friday.

Last week, the Movie Television Review and Classification Board gave and X-rating and effectively banned the collection, titled "Rights," after three board members called them biased, one-sided and said they undermined faith in the government. An X-rating means a film cannot be shown for public exhibition because no theater has been granted a permit to show X-rated films.

On Wednesday, five other board members who conducted a second review of the films gave their approval but restricted the audience because of graphic scenes of torture, said lawyer Eric Mallonga, who headed the second review group.

The 16 films, which range in length from 30 seconds to over a minute, depict disappearances, extrajudicial killings and torture allegedly committed by security forces during the administration of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

One shows a man picking up his daughter from school. When the girl comes out of school, the man is gone. A message appears on the screen calling for a stop to enforced disappearances.

Mallonga said they agreed with the producers that their work involved criticism of "sociopolitical realities" already reported by the media, and were not calling for a rebellion against the government.

"Upon the proper procedure ... there was a second review and it was given an 'R-13.' There was no political suppression, no suppression of free expression," Mallonga said.

Although the board is officially under the Office of the President, it received no instructions from Arroyo or the board chairman to suppress the films, he said.

Kiri Dalena, one of the filmmakers, welcomed the decision, but said, "I still think the reaction of the public toward the censorship ... contributed largely to the change in the decision."

Fellow filmmakers, artists and human rights activists had expressed indignation over the board's earlier decision.

She said the board could still be used to suppress legitimate criticism and dissent, citing a ban on a movie about deposed President Joseph Estrada, who has accused Arroyo, the military and the Roman Catholic church of orchestrating his removal in 2001.

The films in the collection were inspired by foreign television advertisements on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Dalena said.

Dalena said she and 12 other filmmakers plan to show the films in schools and small group gatherings. *AP*

Election gun ban starts

By Alcuin Papa

THE PHILIPPINE National Police (PNP) is implementing a nationwide gun ban effective today (Saturday) in time for the coming barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections on Oct. 29.

Today is also the start of the filing of certificates of candidacy for these elections. Candidates have until Oct. 18 to do so.

PNP Spokesman Chief Superintendent Samuel Pagdilao said all Permits to Carry Firearms Outside of Residences (PTCFOR) are suspended until Nov. 13.

"Owners of firearms cannot bring out their firearms from their homes," Pagdilao said.

Any gun owner who wants to bring his firearm outside his home will have to secure an exemption from the Commission on Elections.

Anyone caught with a firearm not covered by any exemption from the Comelec will be promptly arrested and be slapped with charges of violation of the Omnibus Election Code and illegal possession of firearms, Pagdilao warned.

He also explained that police, agents of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) and military personnel are exempted from the ban for as long as they are on official duty. Any law enforcer who wants carry his firearm off-duty will have to apply for exemption with the Comelec.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, September 29, 2007
Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Archangels

1st Reading: Dn 7:9-10, 13-14 (or Rev 12:7-12ab)
Gospel: John 1:47-51

When Jesus saw Nathanael coming, he said of him, "Here comes an Israelite, a true one; there is nothing false in him." Nathanael asked him, "How do you know me?" And Jesus said to him, "Before Philip called you, you were under the fig tree and I saw you."

Nathanael answered, "Master, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" But Jesus replied, "You believe because I said: 'I saw you under the fig tree.' But you will see greater things than that.

Truly, I say to you, you will see the heavens opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

Commentary

The angels of God, pure spirits/light/power, stand always before the throne/the face of God, in his presence, worshipping and attending to God in his holiness and truth. They serve the Ancient One (Father) and the Son of Man doing his will in heaven and on earth. They are more 'at home' in the Spirit and presence of God, though they are also bound to us here on earth in obedience to the will of God.

They themselves have struggled to obey and they know that those who did not obey among their own now are upon the earth. But we have been given power, dominion, authority, and the testimony and Word of God to stand against them, and they do not have power over us. Even if we must die, we are given the power of the Son of Man to aide us, along with the angels' protection/witness in our lives. Jesus sees Nathanael coming toward him (each of us) but he has seen him under the fig tree. We also have been seen by God since the time of our conception and our God knows us intimately—the good and what needs to be transformed. But like Nathanael and all the disciples, we are reminded that our personal relationships with Jesus, even our relationships in community are not all that is—the angels of heaven and all that God has made are one, and called to be one in worshipping The Son of Man.

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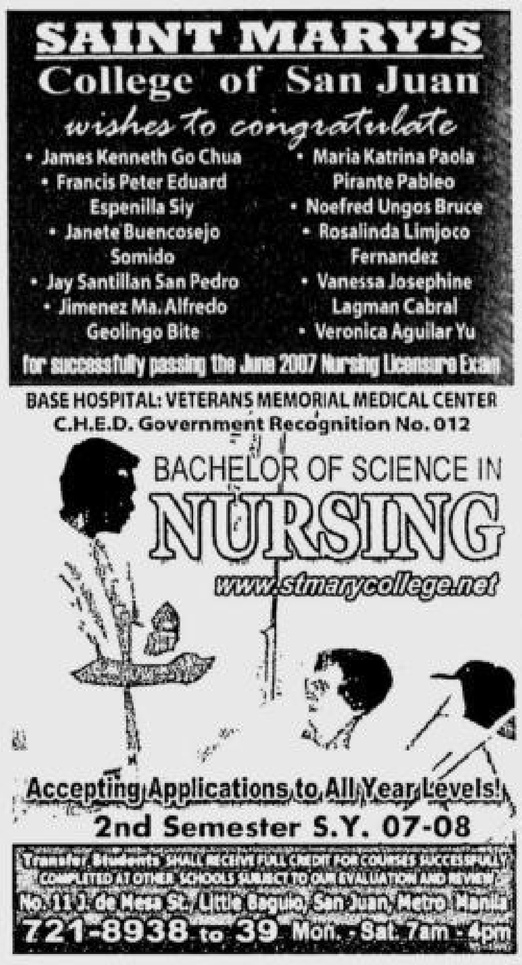

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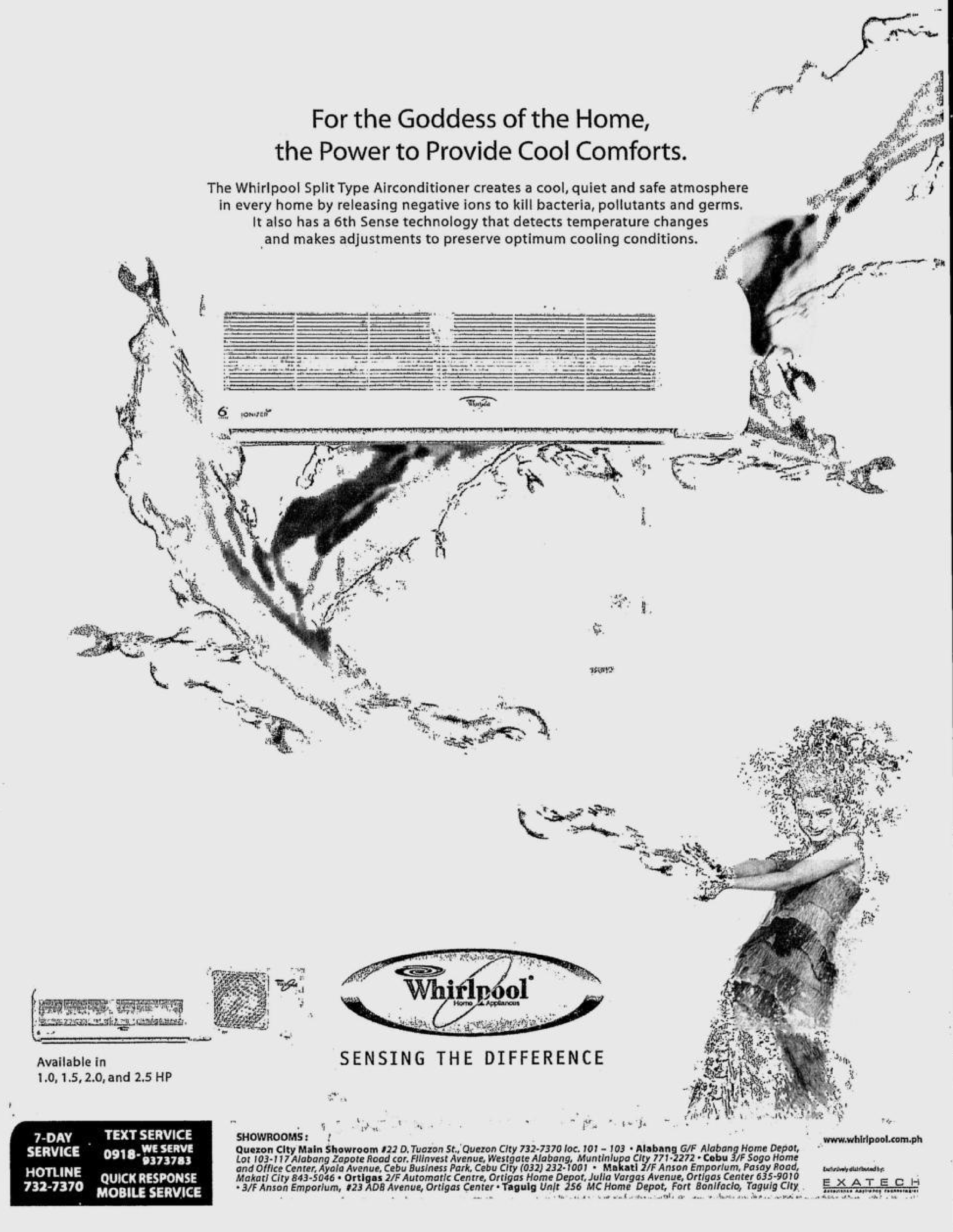

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'Stand down troops, age of impunity over'

From page A1

the last time. The Burmese authorities said no, and made clear that she could never return if she left Burma. I was struck then—as now—by her enduring strength of purpose.

Even after 17 years of imprisonment and house arrest, she sends a message to the world that no confinement or prison cell, no intimidation or brutality, no personal loss or even the threat to life itself can ever destroy her spirit nor her faith in human nature—and it can never extinguish her determination that one day her people will be free.

World reminder

The grainy images that we have seen over recent days on our television screens of monks and ordinary citizens in Burma protesting against the illegitimate and oppressive regime controlling their country have once again galvanized the international community.

Through their dignified but resolute protests, the Burmese people are reminding the world of the decision they made as long ago as 1990 to reject military rule and embrace democracy. They are telling us once again of the failure of the Burmese regime to respond to the need for change. I am appalled by the violence used by the Burmese authorities to try to suppress the peaceful demonstrations.

Poor, rich country

Burma should be one of the most promising economies in southeast Asia. Instead, it is one of the poorest countries in the region. Many live on less than a dollar a day; inflation has placed basic commodities beyond the reach of average citizens; and, according to Save the Children, half of children under the age of 5 are chronically malnourished.

We know Burma already had one of the worst human rights records in the world: a country of only 20 million people with a thousand political prisoners, 500,000 political refugees, poets and journalists tortured for speaking out.

Stop violence

I want to tell those within the regime who order violence against the people: Stand down the troops—the age of impunity is over. They must immediately stop the violence and begin a genuine negotiation for a return to democracy. And Aung San Suu Kyi must be at the heart of it.

For our part, the international community has an obligation to stand up for the people of Burma. It is essential we speak with one voice. At our instigation, the EU, meeting yesterday, made it clear that we will not hesitate to impose expanded sanctions if the Burmese authorities do not exercise restraint.

UN action

I have also called for the UN Security Council to send a clear message to the Burmese regime to stop using violence against peaceful demonstrators. I have asked the secretary general Ban Ki-moon to send his envoy, Ibrahim Gambari, to Rangoon as soon as possible. Finally, we know that those with the most influence over the situation are Burma's neighbors. I am encouraging them to use their access to the Burmese government to ensure that the voice of the Burmese people is understood.

Extraordinary bravery

The people of Burma are demonstrating extraordinary bravery in making their voices heard despite the threats and violence they face. The international community must match their commitment in finding a solution to the unacceptable situation in Burma. Britain will play its part.

This article was published by The Independent on Sept. 27, 2007.—Ed.

Japanese journalist shot at clos

TOKYO—A JAPANESE JOURNALIST who was shot dead in Burma (Myanmar) was a veteran correspondent with a passion for visiting hot spots, travelling to Iraq and Afghanistan despite the pleas of his parents.

Video reporter Kenji Nagai, 50, was hit by a bullet on Thursday as he filmed the military regime's clampdown on demonstrations, becoming the first foreigner to die in the turmoil.

He was shot in the chest at close range, according to the Japanese government, which said it would probe whether he was deliberately killed.

With a shaggy head of hair and professorial glasses, Nagai was employed by APF News, a small agency based in Tokyo that specializes in reports from countries where most Japanese television networks dare not tread.

Nagai's motto was "someone's got to visit places that no one else will," said Toru Yamaji, the president and founder of APF News.

Photographs published in Japanese newspapers yesterday showed Nagai shaking hands with the top brass of the Palestinian Islamist movement Hamas at their Syrian base and sitting for a haircut in Amman on his way into Iraq.

Hailing from a quiet town in Shikoku, the smallest of Japan's four main islands, Nagai went to the United States to learn English after university and then started roaming the world, first as a writer and then with video cameras.

Nagai, a bachelor, frightened his parents with his lifestyle.

His mother said he had not visited the family home for several years and that she warned him not to go to dangerous countries after he told her he had been in Afghanistan.

"I asked him many times not to go, but nothing would stop him," Michiko Nagai told reporters after APF chief Yamaji went to her home in Shikoku's Ehime prefecture to offer condolences in person.

"You cannot go to a place like that without determination," she said in a shaky voice.

Asked what she wanted now, she said only: "I want to see him again."

Nagai was in Bangkok on a separate assignment when Yamaji called him. He jumped at the chance to go to Burma and arrived Tuesday, with at least one of his reports already broadcast on Japanese television.

Nagai felt a passion inside him to cover humanitarian suffering, his colleagues said.

Jiro Ishimaru, the chief editor of Asia Press International, a Tokyo-based cooperative of Asian photo and video journalists, said he first met Nagai five years ago at the border between China and North Korea.

Nagai, who documentary fi tended stretche North Koreans their lives by d the secretive s said.

"He was inter very closely and ing substantial maru said.

"He was the t nalist who went no one goes to, bidden areas o where he had t he said.

"He was a rat and was very w his interviewee was driven by h something that doing."

Crowds taunt troops; no monks in sight

From page A1

cupying key Buddhist monasteries and cutting public Internet access.

The moves raised concerns that a crackdown on civilians that has killed at least 10 people this week was set to intensify.

Hundreds of monks were detained in army raids in the early hours of Thursday on about 10 Rangoon (Yangon) monasteries seen as leading the protests.

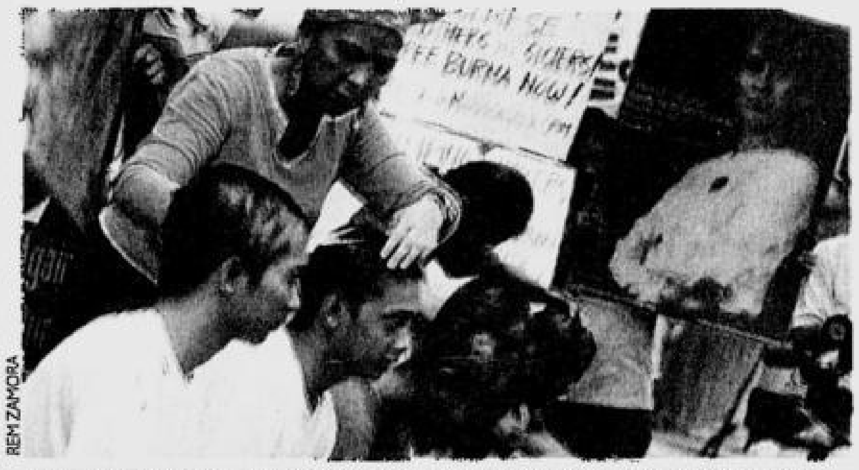
One monk was killed in the raids, taking to six the number of monks known to have died in the crackdown, a clergy source said.

United front

But monks told foreign Burmese-language broadcasters they were not going to give up. Speaking anonymously, they said they had formed a "united front" of clergy, students and activists to continue the struggle.

By sealing Buddhist monasteries, the government seemed intent on clearing the streets of monks, who have spearheaded the demonstrations and are revered by most of their countrymen. This could embolden troops to lash out harder on remaining protesters.

Daily demonstrations drawing tens of thousands of people demanding an end to 45 years of military dictatorship have grown into the stiffest challenge to the ruling junta in decades. The crisis began Aug. 19 with rallies against a fuel price hike, then escalated dramatically when monks joined in.


FREE BURMA NOW!

REM ZAMORA

MAKATI CITY: The free-Burma movement here is distinguished in that it is composed entirely of Filipinos. On Thursday, different labor groups rally in front of the Burmese Embassy. To signify their disgust at the Burmese military and pay their respect to the monks' struggle, some ralliers shave their heads.

Hundreds of people have been arrested, carted away in trucks at night or pummeled with batons in recent days, witnesses and diplomats said, as the international community appealed for an end to the violence.

Even Burma's fellow members in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations expressed "revulsion" and told the junta "to exercise utmost restraint and seek a political solution." Officials in neighboring Thailand said airplanes were on standby to evacuate Asean nationals in case the condition deteriorated. *(Story on Page A1.)*

The junta told diplomats summoned to its new jungle capital, Naypyidaw, that it was "committed to showing restraint in its response to the provocations," one of those present said.

By Burma standards, the crackdown has so far been muted, in part because the regime knows that killing monks could trigger a maelstrom of fury.

Troops fired on several crowds on Thursday, and the Hong Kong based Asian Human Rights Commission said eight people were shot dead in a single incident in the northeastern Rangoon district of South Okkalapa.

Loudspeaker trucks toured South Okkalapa yesterday, announcing a four-hour extension in the area to the overnight curfew that was imposed on Rangoon and the second city of Mandalay on Tuesday, witnesses said.

Real number of fatalities

State-run television admitted that nine people had been killed in Rangoon, but Australian Ambassador Bob Davis told Australian Broadcasting Corp. radio that should be multiplied several times to get the real figure.

One of those killed on Thursday was Japanese photographer Kenji Nagai, 50, *(see sidebar)* shot point-blank—according to video footage—when soldiers charged crowds near Sule Pagoda, the focus of more than a week of protests and now deep inside the sealed-off area.

Japan said it would decide whether to suspend humanitarian aid for Burma after investigating the killing. *Reuters, AP*

GMA at UN: Release Aung . . .

From page A1

Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) voiced "revulsion" at Burma's crackdown on peaceful protesters.

"This is the time for Burma to return to the path of democracy and to release Aung San Suu Kyi now and to involve all the parties, including the National League for Democracy, in the democratization and the constitutional process," Ms Arroyo told the UN General Assembly.

Ms Arroyo held up the Philippines—where her administration has been accused by leftist militants of tolerating the killings of political activists—as "the most democratic country in our region."

"We have no tolerance for human rights violations at home and abroad," Ms Arroyo said in her 10-minute speech.

In a statement earlier, Ms Arroyo said she was frustrated that appeals for moderation were not getting through to Burma's rulers.

In an unusually blunt language for Asean, the nine other foreign ministers of the group—minus the Burmese foreign minister—said they were "appalled to receive reports of automatic weapons being used" on crowds and demanded the Burmese government "immediately desist from the use of violence against demonstrators."

The Asean ministers "expressed their revulsion to Burmese Foreign Minister Nyan Win over reports that the demonstrations in Myanmar are being suppressed by violent force and that there has been a number of fatalities," said the statement, issued after talks on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly.

The statement was striking because the group operates on a consensual basis and holds as a core principle "noninterference in the internal affairs of one another."

US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice called the Asean reaction "a very good statement," when she concluded a meeting with Asean ministers and two senior Burmese diplomats.

Address at UN

During the Asean meeting, which was closed to the press, Rice "made it very clear that it was unacceptable for the government to use violence against these peaceful protesters."

In her own statement before she spoke at the UN, Ms Arroyo called on the Burmese military government to end the violent crackdown on prodemocracy protesters.

"The Philippines asks the government of Myanmar to act with the utmost restraint and to take immediate steps to preserve what advances have been made in its roadmap to democracy," Ms Arroyo said in her statement.

"Specifically, we ask the government of Myanmar to now allow all interested parties to take full part in the effort to national reconciliation through peaceful and inclusive dialogue," she said.

Most candid

"This means the release of all those who have been detained and who can contribute to the process of national renewal, including Ms Aung San Suu Kyi."

Ms Arroyo also asked Burmese authorities to invite UN Special Envoy Ibrahim Gambari to visit Burma "as soon as possible."

In a meeting with reporters at her suite at the Waldorf Astoria hotel, Ms Arroyo said that her latest statement on Burma was "the most candid statement coming from us."

She said the Philippines had been taking a strong position on Burma as early as the time of the late Foreign Secretary Blas Ople.

She recalled it was in 2005 that Manila broke away from the Asean's consensus on non-interference in the internal affairs of its members when Ople issued a strong statement against Burma.

'I am frustrated'

Asked if she felt frustrated that despite repeated Philippine calls to Burma, it was still not getting through to the authorities there, Ms Arroyo said: "I am frustrated."

In her statement, Ms Arroyo asked Burma "to act in its own best interest to avoid its further isolation and to redeem its democracy without any further delay."

"We have patiently but persistently advised Myanmar within Asean that it must make greater and faster progress toward that goal," she said.

Aside from speaking about the Philippines' concern over developments in Burma, Ms Arroyo said she also intended to talk at the UN about how important it was for the Philippines to be "globally engaged" and that was "why the UN was important to us."

"It's good for our economy to be engaged globally," she told reporters, noting that in her speech she would also talk about the Philippines' latest economic gains.

In view of the global concern for climate change, Ms Arroyo said she would also speak about the Green Philippines' campaign and its sustainable development programs.

Ms Arroyo said she planned to meet with UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon, whom she said she had known for sometime since he used to be the foreign secretary of South Korea.

"He was very active (in getting the Philippines' good projects from South Korea). I feel we have a good friend in the UN in the person of the new UN secretary general," she said. *With reports from Reuters, AFP*

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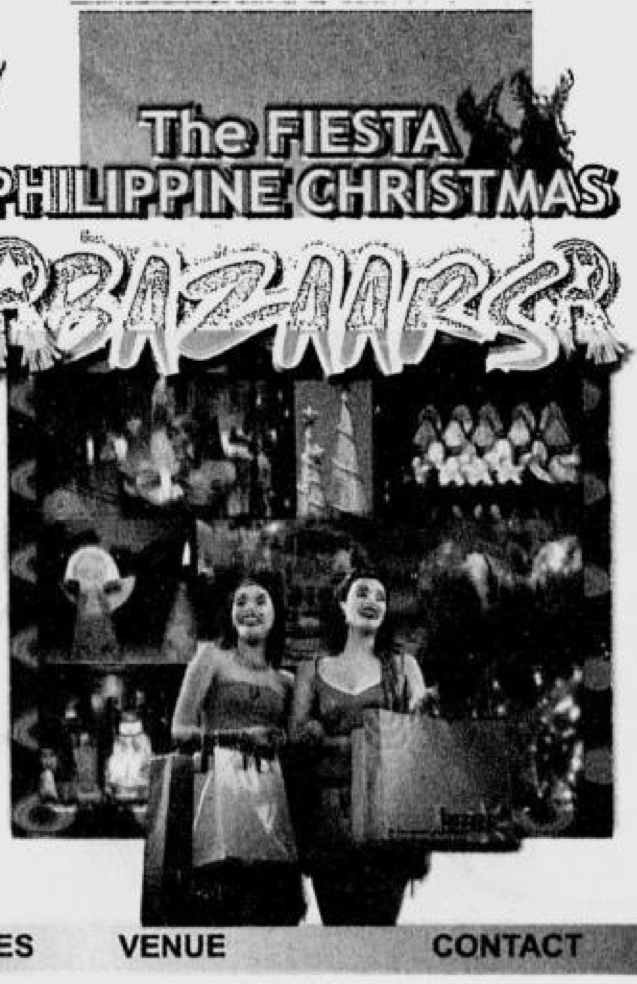

BAZAAR	DATES	VENUE	CONTACT
American Women's Club	Oct. 1; Nov. 5; Dec. 3	World Trade Center (WTC)	817-7587
Kari Edwards	Oct. 13-14, 27-28; Nov. 3-4, 10-11, 17-18, 24-25; Dec. 1-2, 8-9, 15-23	NBC Tent, The Fort, Taguig	372-8453/374-3726
Ayala Alabang Village Bazaar	Nov. 17-18; Dec. 8-9,15-16	Cuenca Court, Ayala Alabang	807-0511
Assumption Bazaar	Nov. 25	Intercon Hotel, Makati City	894-3561
Venture 7	Oct. 7; Dec. 2; Nov. 10,	Intercon Hotel, Makati City Renaissance (New World)	819-3961/843-9507
Casa & Jardin	Oct. 14 & 21	Intercon Hotel, Makati City	843-2869/890-6206
Ex-Link's Negosyo Expo Season 2	Oct. 23-28	Hall 2, Bldg. B, Megamall, Pasig City	643-3887 / 640-7439
Friends of CCP	Oct. 28	Intercon Hotel, Makati City	817-3905
Rotary Club of Makati	Nov. 11	Intercon Hotel, Makati City	819-2866
Rotary Club Makati West	Nov. 18	Intercon Hotel, Makati City	753-098
Zonta Club Manila	Nov.18	Renaissance (New World)	928-0512/850-9147
Noel	Nov. 21-25; Dec. 21-23	World Trade Center, Pasay City	687-2955
International Bazaar	Nov. 25	PICC, Pasay City	832-4000
Assumption Bazaar	Nov. 25	Intercon Hotel , Makati City	894-3561
St. James Bazaar	Dec. 1-2	Cuenca Court, Ayala Alabang	842-5140/807-1623
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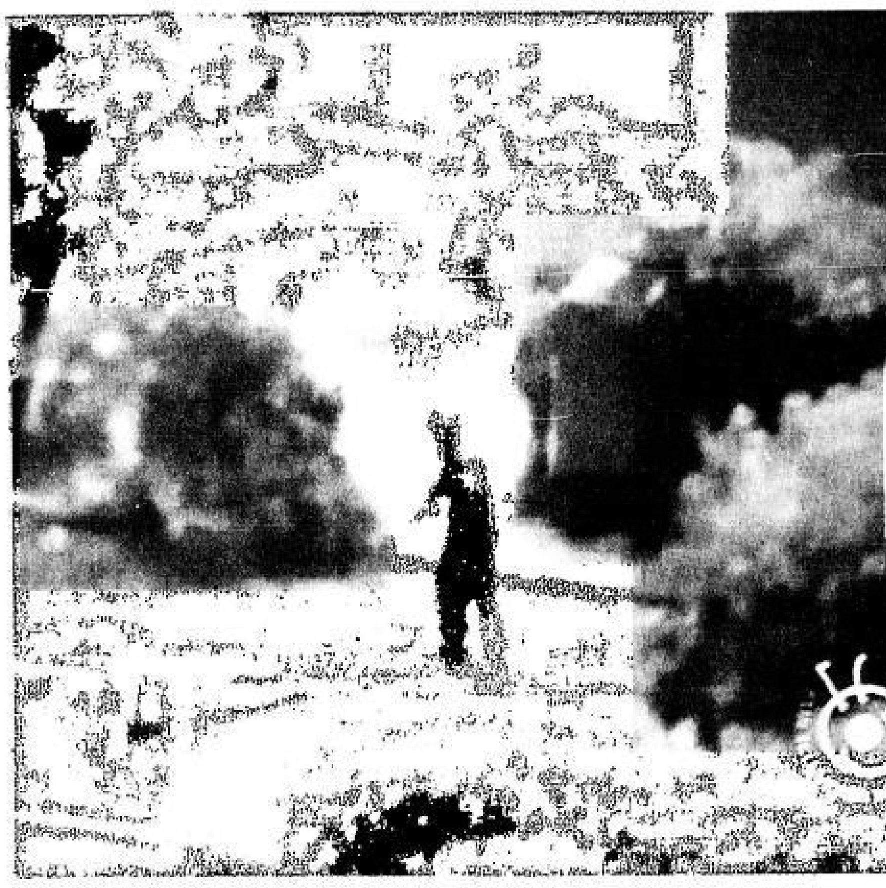
While much of mainstream Japanese media stay away from combat zones, a small group of Japanese independent journalists is famed for heading on tough assignments.

Two Japanese freelance journalists, Shinsuke Hashida and Kotaro Ogawa, were killed in Iraq in 2004 when their car was hit by a rocket-propelled grenade.

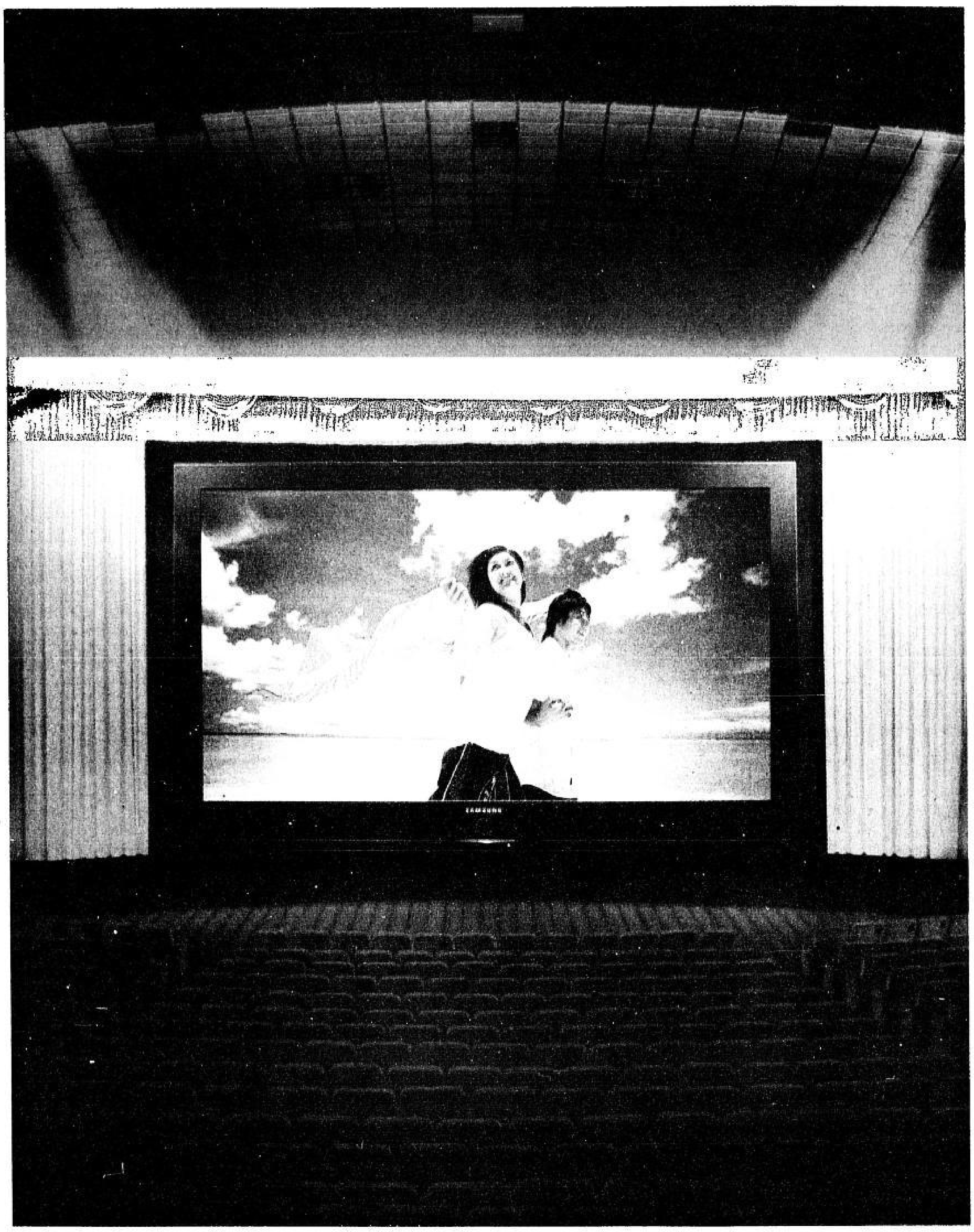
Nagai's father, Hideo Nagai, expressed outrage at his son's death.

"I want to say to those responsible in Myanmar, its government, that they cannot do something so outrageous," he said. "I don't want to see anything like this ever happen again." *AFP*



BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY: Japanese photographer Kenji Nagai falls to the street after police and military officers fire upon protesters in Rangoon in this frame grab released on Thursday. Japan may suspend humanitarian aid to Burma once it establishes the facts behind the killing. REUTERS

JOURNALIST Kenji Nagai, 50, became the first foreigner killed in the prodemocracy protests in Burma . The undated photo is from Japanese video news agency APF News. AFP



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OPINION

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Omerta

EDITORIAL

THERE IS NO REASON TO DOUBT THAT DURING his testimony before the Senate last Wednesday, Chairman Romulo Neri of the Commission on Higher Education was telling the truth and nothing but the truth. But there is every reason to believe that he did not tell the whole truth, which is very much a part of the oath he took. Neri himself should know this; it is very clear from his adamant refusal to answer any questions concerning the part President Macapagal-Arroyo played in the decision-making process that led to the Chinese firm ZTE's getting the $329-million contract to build the National Broadband Network.

Neri needed hardly any prodding to confirm that he had been offered by Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos P200 million to approve the ZTE deal. He even volunteered the information that he had reported the bribery attempt to the President and had been told simply to turn the offer down. Beyond that, however, he would not reveal what Ms Arroyo said or did with regard to the NBN project.

More precisely, the former socioeconomic planning secretary could not—or would not—explain when, how and why the President made a 180-degree turn in her express policy that the NBN be established under a build-operate-transfer scheme so that the government would not have to spend anything or extend guarantees. When asked by Sen. Loren Legarda if "any higher government official dictated that the ZTE project be given priority," Neri refused to answer, saying his conversations with the President could not be made public without her consent.

Neri would again invoke this so-called "executive privilege" in declining to give answers to questions about how the President reacted, by word or deed, to his disclosure of the bribe offer from Abalos. But on the day Neri was scheduled to go to the Senate, Malacañang, perhaps sensing that the President could be held accountable for ignoring a complaint made by a member of her Cabinet no less about criminal wrongdoing, announced that it had conducted a "discreet investigation" on the bribery charge and found it "uncorroborated." Curiously, no one among the people who were most likely to know about the bribery case or cases was ever approached by Malacañang's ghost investigators. Not even Neri, who had exposed it to the President.

The Arroyo administration was apparently trying damage control when it allowed Neri to testify and pin Abalos down on the bribery charge. But if it thought that that would satisfy the curiosity of everyone following the scandal, then it has miscalculated badly. People want the full story, and Neri's silence only confirms for them that indeed the administration has something very rotten to hide.

The majority of the senators know this, and they are not likely to give up any time soon their search for the missing link that might connect the President to the scandal. They have smelled blood, and they are going after bigger game. Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano, chair of the Senate blue ribbon committee, has indicated that the Senate would not let Neri get away with his claim of executive privilege. And if the issue goes to the Supreme Court, there is more than an even chance that the Court would sustain the Senate's right to be given answers. It has already ruled that executive privilege can only be invoked in matters pertaining to national security and foreign relations. In this case, the right to remain silent can only be extended to the guilty.

Neri has said he would not hide behind the Palace veil of secrecy to help hide high crimes. But right from the start, this scandal has plunder written all over it. All that is needed to build a solid case is a few missing pieces, some of which he seems to be in a very good position to supply. The choice before him now is whether he would give them voluntarily or have them extracted from him by order of the Court and the Senate.

Part of the oath of office of the prime minister of Singapore says: "I will not on any account disclose the counsel or advice, opinion or vote of any other minister or parliamentary secretary." Nothing even faintly resembling that solemn pledge is contained in the oath of office of Filipino officials. There is no legal or moral reason for Neri to continue to be a party to omerta.

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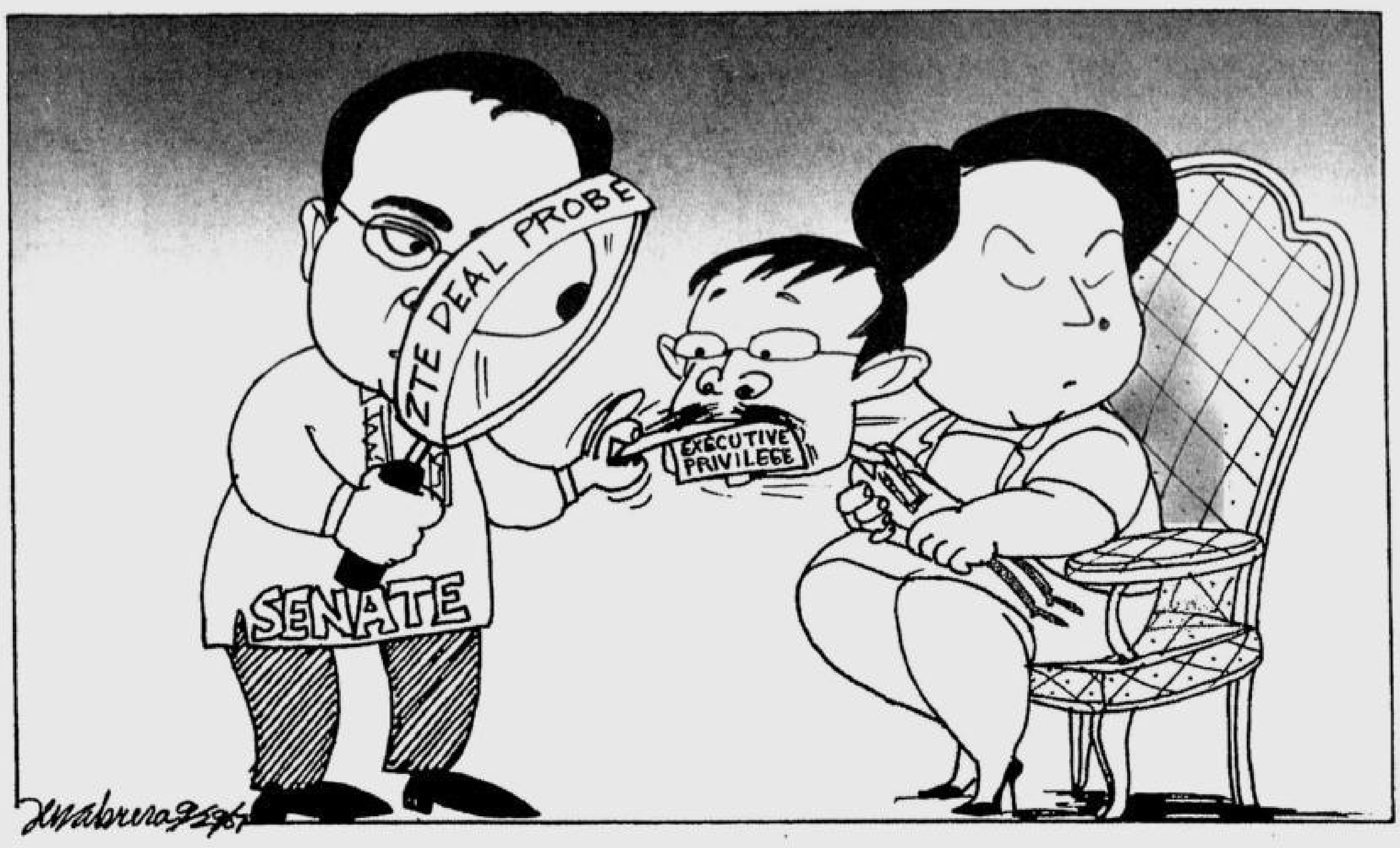

Quibbling while the country is being robbed

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

UNDER QUESTIONING AT THE SENATE ON the National Broadband Network contract with ZTE, former Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri stated that he truly believed it would be beneficial for the government to operate its own network. Asked whether he thought such a project was best pursued through a government-to-government loan or through a build-operate-transfer (BOT) scheme undertaken by the private sector, he quibbled. The question lies outside the scope of his functions, he said.

Did it not bother you at all, asks Sen. Mar Roxas, that someone offered you a bribe in exchange for your approval of the project? Yes it did, Secretary Neri replies, and that's the reason I asked my technical staff at the National Economic and Development Authority to go over the project very carefully.

But you approved it anyway, Roxas presses, despite your own reservations.

Why? I was convinced it was a viable project, Neri says. Under typical circumstances, that answer would suffice. But, in Neri's case, it doesn't.

Because of his academic background, Neri's reputation is that of a technocrat who uses scientific reason to determine the alternative courses of action available given certain objectives. He used this image to full effect at the Senate hearing in order to avoid having to answer some questions. For indeed, the only legitimate way to argue with a technocrat is by confronting his technical arguments with your own technical arguments. That was what the paper of the two economics professors from the University of the Philippines set out to do. And that was what Roxas was trying to do when he challenged the economic assumptions of the ZTE contract.

By joining the Cabinet, Neri became an active participant in the decision-making process, a fundamentally political function. And so when he played a round of golf with someone who had been assiduously following up a project pending in his office, he must know that he was doing so not as a technical person but as a political alter ego of the president. If Neri had not acted as if he did not mind assuming the role of a golf crony, would Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos have been stupid or bold enough to offer him a bribe?

The usefulness of technical men like Neri to government, especially one with a severe legitimacy and trust problem, cannot be gainsaid. The social capital they have acquired from their previous engagement in academe serves as an effective smokescreen for all the sordid deals that are transacted daily in the higher echelons of government. Those who are aware of it are sometimes called whores of power. The naïve ones who don't, sooner or later, wake up to the realities of power in which they are implicated.

Which one is Neri? This former professor of the Asian Institute of Management had a rare chance to define himself at the Senate hearing, something he could have done to Abalos' face when the latter offered to buy his honor. But he retreated, leaving others once more to do the defining for him.

He leaves too many questions unanswered, and so the public cannot be blamed for filling in the blanks. How did President Macapagal-Arroyo respond when he reported to her the alleged bribe offer of Abalos? He says that she told him to refuse the bribe. Then he clams up, invoking executive privilege. If the whole conversation is confidential, why did he deem it important to say that, in that conversation, GMA had told him to refuse the bribe? Secretary Neri says he is prepared to tell the truth. Isn't withholding relevant information a form of lying? It is clear he is protecting GMA. It is time he realized how GMA is treating him.

Soon after he gives his 11th-hour endorsement of the broadband project, he is relieved of his duties as Neda director general. He is transferred to the Commission on Higher Education as acting chair. This move perplexes everyone. Neri, the man who stuck it out with GMA after half of the Cabinet resigned in 2005, tries to keep a brave face despite the implied demotion. Then media start asking him about unconfirmed reports of a P200-million attempted bribe. He neither confirms nor denies the information. But, he tells media, he will shed light on this issue at the right time under oath before the right forum. If that is not a self-invitation to a formal investigation, I don't know what it is.

I heard Neri's interview over dzBB with Arnold Clavio and Ali Sotto, and I became curious, wondering if he realized what he was doing. When Joey de Venecia came out and told everything he knew in a sworn affidavit, it was easy to see that a political time-bomb was ticking. There was now no way Neri could back out from naming Abalos. Malacañang quickly went on a damage control mode to insulate GMA and the First Gentleman from the anticipated explosion. And so we are informed that GMA had earlier ordered a "discreet investigation" of this bribery attempt, but that the reports yielded no corroborating information. This is clearly meant to free GMA from the possible charge of failure to enforce the law and protect the national interest. But where does this leave the loyal Neri?

"That's how he saw things," beams Eduardo Ermita, the amiable executive secretary. What he's saying is that Neri saw things and misunderstood them. One does not need to be a political analyst to know that, even as Ermita instructs poor Neri to finesse the inconvenient truths he has so far unburdened himself of, Malacañang will be standing by the man who has served the Arroyos well—Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos.

* * *

Comments to public.lives@gmail.com

What was told in what Neri did not say

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

FORMER SOCIOECONOMIC PLANNING SECretary Romulo Neri did his President a great disservice, whether intended or not, when he claimed executive privilege in the Senate hearings. How come? Only consider: He did not hesitate to tell the Senate committee that he reported to the President the alleged bribe offer of Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos; neither did he hesitate to tell the Senate committee that she told him not to accept the bribe. In other words, on that part of his conversations with the President, which casts her (and him) in a good light, Neri did not hide behind executive privilege. But when pressed for more information on the conversations, he scuttled for cover. So what other choice would even the most sympathetic listener have but to conclude that those other parts of the conversations he refused to divulge were going to put either him or his principal in a bad light? Of course there is no question that using executive privilege would allow the already suspicious opposition to make hay—but Neri's selective use of it left little room for doubt. With that kind of friend, one no longer needs any enemies.

But the bigger disservice that Neri did was to the National Economic and Development Authority, which ended up looking inutile and incompetent after his explanations—contrary to what the Philippine Constitution mandates it to be: the country's independent economic development and planning agency, tasked with coordinating the government's social and economic development plans, programs and policies.

Why inutile? Well, to hear him tell it, Neda and its interagency committees are all collegial bodies (true) and he, as Neda chief, had only one vote (true). And that the chair of the Investment Coordination Committee (ICC), which recommended the approval of the NBN-ZTE project, is the secretary of finance (true). All this leads the listener to believe that he and the Neda Secretariat, which he headed, are practically helpless.

What he **didn't** say was that he was vice chair of the Neda Board (where the President is chair), and was chair, or co-chair, of **all** its interagency committees. But his Pontius Pilate act was so convincing, I began to think that, perhaps, the Neda had indeed been emasculated. I even texted a former colleague to ask when the executive order creating the Neda had been amended to emasculate the Neda Secretariat and the director general. (I occupied the position in the first three years of the Cory government, and I knew the authority and responsibilities of the Neda Secretariat and its chief.) It was only toward the end of the hearing that he admitted he was co-chair of the ICC—but the admission was almost an aside, and I wouldn't have caught it if I hadn't been so concerned.

And if we want to quibble about the respective powers of chair vs. co-chair, the Neda director general is **chair** of the Infrastructure Committee (InfraCom) of the Neda Board which "Advises the President on matters concerning infrastructure development, including ... telecommunications .... Coordinates the activities of agencies ... involved in infrastructure development.... Recommends to the President policies, programs and projects concerning infrastructure development consistent with national development objectives and priorities." How much more power does he want?

Given all that, isn't it obvious that Neri could have, and should have, stopped short the Department of Transportation and Communications and the Department of Education when they wanted to scale up their telecom programs by four times and five times, respectively? He had very strong grounds for doing so: (1) existing policy viewed this as a private activity; and (2) the original intent was merely—to use an analogy—to connect to the existing communications superhighways, rather than to build two additional superhighways of their own.

So why didn't he do it? Because, he said, it was the line agencies' decision. To hear him tell it, he had neither the responsibility nor the authority to point out to these line agencies that they were going against stated policy. One wonders what "policy coordination" means, which is part of the Neda's brief.

As for making the Neda look incompetent—(1) He told his staff to be careful of the project, because he had been offered a bribe on it (see how he washes his hands again, and now the onus is on the staff). (2) Yet, when his staff reported to him that they could not validate the ZTE cost estimates because a search on the Internet yielded no information—he either allowed or ordered them to accept the costs as given (because, anyway, the economic rates of return are so high, even assuming the costs are overstated—that is how he defended it). The interesting unasked (by the Senate) question is: why depend on the Internet only (or at all) when $329 million is at stake? The only answer has to be: because there was no time to get information from other sources. Which leads to: Why was there not enough time? Ah-hah. Which leads, unfortunately, to: And why didn't the Neda staff protest that they were not given enough time to do a good job?

But to Neri goes the first prize for incompetence: He said the Neda doesn't care about the financials, its job is to compute the economic internal rate of return (EIRR). I almost fell off my chair when I heard him say that. Any economist must know that computing the EIRR starts with the financials—costs and benefits.

But then, Neri is not an economist.

Measuring political popularity

SOCIAL CLIMATE

Mahar Mangahas

LAST MONDAY, SWS ISSUED ITS REGULAR quarterly report of public opinion on President Macapagal-Arroyo, stating that 34 percent were satisfied and 45 percent were dissatisfied with her performance, as of Sept. 2-5, 2007. The substantial difference of 11 points led to our description of the result as "negative." This was unlike the previous round of June 27-30, 2007, when the 39 percent satisfied and 42 percent dissatisfied were so close to each other that SWS described opinions as "neutral."

Those numbers don't add up to 100 percent because many people are fence-sitters, neither satisfied nor dissatisfied. Because of the fence-sitters, a balance of opinion does not require the satisfied to exceed 50 percent in order to be favorable; it only requires them to outnumber the dissatisfied.

In evaluating presidential popularity, it is proper to compare presidents to each other at the same point in their terms—since in the beginning there is a honeymoon, and afterwards things go somewhat downhill. Presidents Aquino, Ramos and Estrada started out with Net Satisfaction Ratings above +60, and ended at between +10 to +30. President Arroyo started out at +24 in March 2001, and peaked at +30 in March 2004. Since October 2004 her net ratings have been below zero, though not always significantly.

Must one be popular to be a good president? The "Iron Lady" Margaret Thatcher was well-liked by foreign leaders, but was actually unpopular among Britons almost all throughout her two terms. She used the unifying episode of the Falklands War against Argentina as the opportunity to call for a general election. But very soon after re-election she was unpopular again.

The First Spouse. Checking into public regard for the First Spouse is common in general opinion polls—remember Bill and Hillary being called "two for one"? This week, SWS reported that only 20 percent had much trust, whereas 58 percent had little trust, in First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo, in early September 2007.

After FG Arroyo obtained a disturbing negative trust rating as early as September 2001—he had just been accused of taking a multi-million peso bribe from a telecommunications company; the SWS poll found people split into 21 percent believing the charge, 21 percent not believing it, and 58 percent saying they didn't know enough about it—SWS continued monitoring it for the benefit of its subscribers. Thus the long-standing public distrust in the FG is well known in many circles.

After last week's sensational Senate testimony of Joey de Venecia that Mike Arroyo pointed a finger at his nose and told him to "back off" from the National Broadband Network project, SWS felt that it would be relevant to include the FG's trust rating in its media release.

For comparison, SWS polled trust in First Lady Amelita Ramos only once while Fidel Ramos was president. In November 1995, 34 percent had much trust and 33 percent had little trust in her; thus opinions were neutral. The July 1998 SWS survey, right after FVR's term, asked for opinions on Ming Ramos' performance during the previous six years and found 49 percent satisfied versus 23 percent dissatisfied with it.

SWS polled First Lady Luisa Ejercito's trust rating four times, all in the year 2000. Each time it found a plurality trusting her. Gross Trust in Loi Estrada ranged from 36 to 48 percent; Net Trust was between +11 and +26.

How much do the ratings matter? The ratings are of course critical to the political futures of individuals. They led big backers to convince reluctant men like Juan Flavier and Noli de Castro into running for the Senate.

But the ratings, and opinion polling in general, matter more to citizens as a whole, aspiring for true democracy. The sheer time-line of presidential ratings marks 1986 as the point of restoration of Philippine democracy. Polling on political popularity sprouted in Indonesia, Taiwan, and Thailand once democratic space allowed. It is practiced in Hong Kong, even after the transfer to China in 1997, as a precious freedom to be fiercely defended. Its absence in Malaysia and Singapore tells a lot about the quality of their democracies.

* * *

Boris Grushin, Russian pollster. On Sept. 24, the New York Times reported on the death at 78 of Boris Grushin, who was a pioneer in opinion polling three decades before the Soviet Union broke up.

Grushin left newspaper work in 1967, when he got his doctorate in sociology, and began to survey public attitudes at the Academy of Sciences of the Soviet Union. In the late 1980s, in the Gorbachev era, he helped found the All-Soviet Center for Public Opinion, which was free to raise politically-charged questions, including views on the government leadership and attitudes toward the Stalin era. Later he founded Vox Populi, the first privately run opinion service in the Soviet Union. He was an adviser to Russian President Boris Yeltsin in 1993.

Last year, in the journal of the Public Opinion Foundation, an independent Russian group, Dr. Grushin wrote: "Democracy is an indispensable condition of the functioning of public opinion in a given society. As yet, we have no democracy, not even the rudiments of it. This is why we should work and keep working: our society, our politicians and especially our population has to work for public opinion in Russia to become a solid institution playing a dominant role in society."

* * *

Contact SWS: www.sws.org.ph or mahar.mangahas@sws.org.ph.

'A future where our horizon is all the world'

COMMENTARY

Lourdes Mercado-Balbin

HOW DO YOU HONOR GREATNESS? MANY ways. You can put up monuments and commemorative markers. You can write books extolling the virtues of the individual through whom such greatness shines. And you can immortalize such greatness through our schools, where present and future generations continually learn and emulate the positive values that characterize it.

President Ramon Magsaysay was a great man by any standard. The values that he embodied—integrity, honesty and the will to succeed—are lessons that we all must learn and internalize, in school and in our homes.

2007 and 2008 are unique milestones for the Ramon Magsaysay Award. These two years allow the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation (RMAF) to look back and to draw from history the inspiration as well as the passion and the energy for directing the future of Asia's premier prize.

As one way to keep the fires burning, the RMAF has been holding the Ramon Magsaysay Student Essay Competition or RMSEC every year for the past five years. Carrying the theme "The Magsaysay Awardee Who Inpires Me Most: The Magsaysay Greatness of Spirit Lives," the competition is open to all secondary and collegiate students in the Philippines. All participants are required to register online via www.rmaf.org.ph. By visiting the foundation website, secondary school principals and university or college registrars, college deans and department chairs of the participating students also endorse online the students' participation. Essays are submitted by e-mail to rsmsec5phil@gmail.com.

This year's participants are surely discovering these modern-day heroes and heroines as they research for their essays to the competition. The 5th RMSEC deadline has been extended to Oct. 12, so interested students still have time to invest in winning eight personal computers and two P50,000 grand prizes.

In 1957, the tragic death of Ramon Magsaysay spurred people from this country and overseas, to keep alive forever, the man's greatness of spirit: the Ramon Magsaysay Award was established through a grant from the Rockefellers Brothers Fund and with the concurrence of the Philippine Government. The RMAF was immediately organized to administer what today is Asia's most prestigious prize.

Since 1958, there have been more than 200 laureates. It can be said that Magsaysay walks among this growing community of selfless persons and institutions. By their grit, leadership example and sheer determination, they transform lives and communities for the better.

That was Magsaysay's purpose in life, and the laureates, by their remarkable work and example, provide a sturdy lifeline to this purposeful life.

Beyond rituals and ceremonies, there are efforts to ensure a legacy toward an informed and inspired future for the next generations. This year and next, more seeds for human progress are being planted.

Digital mementoes mark the late President's birth and death anniversaries this year—Ramon Magsaysay was born in 1907 and died in 1957. The "My Guy Redux" video trilogy and its accompanying interactive video titled "Adventures With The Guy" reintroduce the much-loved Filipino leader to current and future generations. It is an appropriate companion for the book "Magsaysay The People's President," published in 2005 by former Sen. Jun Magsaysay and his sister, Mila Magsaysay-Valenzuela.

FELTA, which will distribute the historical documentary, will also produce Teachers' Manuals to help mentors optimize the use of the videos in and out of the classroom. A call for contributions to The RM Collective is being made to gather personal anecdotes on the late president from the general public.

A nine-book series titled "Great Men and Women of Asia" is nearing completion, in partnership with Anvil Publishing. It popularizes literature from the formal Magsaysay Award Book of Record and will surely appeal to intermediate, secondary and college students.

A counterpart GMWA-Children's edition of the popular book series, in 24 individual books no less, is being published as an anniversary gift from The Bookmark Inc. The man behind this generous donation is former Ambassador Benny Tan, who chaired the foundation twice and continues to help as its deputy treasurer.

The awardees' best practices will be rendered on video to share with communities worldwide and will be titled, "Ripples of Change." The awardees' lifework will be revealed as shining test cases for making a difference in a range of social issues—democracy and good governance, the environment, poverty eradication (health and education, rural livelihood), science and sustainable agriculture, women and youth empowerment, human rights and responsible citizenship, peace and solidarity, culture and the arts.

Also in the works is an innovative survey of the award's 50 years alongside developments in the region. To keep the dialogue fulsome and animated, other platforms are being pursued to effectively convey the strength of human innovations.

And why not? President Magsaysay himself in 1956 said, "let us invest in a future where our horizon is all the world."

Lourdes Mercado Balbin is the RMAF communications officer. She invites readers to visit www.rmaf.org.ph for more information.

MJ in designer clothes; senators at each other's throats

BETWEEN DEADLINES

GENERALS-IN-WAITING. PNP CHIEF OSCAR Calderon has yet to turn over command to his successor Avelino Razon (the rites are on Monday), but the talk in Camp Crame is already about the jockeying for position for the "successor to the successor."

In the running is a three-star general whose Philippine Military Academy class is already in the ascendancy. So strategically positioned are his classmates and so vital are their responsibilities that a withdrawal of their support for government would spell doom for the administration.

The other "candidate" holds a lower rank but is banking on support from some "friends" in media to try to get him into the papers. The first general is known as an operations man while the second is known as an administrative whiz.

Razon retires a year from now, on Sept. 27, 2008.

A. Papa

* * *

HEY, COOL IT! The interminable Senate hearings on the NBN project have taken their toll on an unlikely target: the senators conducting the probe. Near the close of the 11-hour hearing last Wednesday, some senators vented their frustration after CHEd Chairman Romulo Neri first refused to state his reason for invoking executive privilege.

Sen. Joker Arroyo asked his colleagues to go easy on Neri and give him time to consult Malacañang before the next hearing. "The department secretary can't anticipate all the questions," Arroyo said, to which Sen. Panfilo Lacson interjected, "He's not a Cabinet member."

"Can I have the floor without interruption?" Arroyo shot back, adding after a momentary pause: "We are not policemen here." Lacson, a former national police chief, did not dare rebut.

Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile eventually moved for an executive session with Neri. But Sen. Jamby Madrigal said she only had a "short question" for Neri. When her questioning lengthened, however, Enrile repeated his motion. But "short" is relative, Madrigal said.

***"Sige na, para matapos lang itong kaguluhang ito,"* Enrile snapped back.**

The hearing closed with a final verbal joust between Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano and Sen. Richard Gordon, after the latter insisted on asking some more questions, even though other senators had already stood up.

"Do you want to quibble some more, go on executive session or ask your question now?" a peeved Cayetano asked.

Before asking his questions, a testy Gordon got back at Cayetano, saying (erroneously) that the new senator "obviously" had not chaired a committee before. "I know he just wants to be seen on TV," Gordon snapped.

D. Pazzibugan

* * *

"I'M RICH AGAIN." After announcing his intention to withdraw the criminal cases he filed against his family and against former Justice Secretary Hernando Perez and incumbent Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez, former Manila representative Mark Jimenez seems to be a changed man. If, that is, clothes make the man.

When reporters at the Department of Justice noticed that he was no longer clad in his usual all-white ensemble, Jimenez recited a whole string of designer names he was wearing in reply.

"All I want is I can live my life. Maybe you can see I'm younger now. I'm 15 years younger. I'm in my Armani and Burberry, not anymore in my white and white. I am now with my Dolce [and] Gabbana. You see now I'm rich again," he said.

Jimenez also said his decision to withdraw the cases was unconditional, a gesture he believes he should have done much earlier. So what will the new, designer clothes-wearing MJ do from now on? Focus on his Hulog ng Langit Foundation, he said. The foundation provides aid to the poor and sponsors baptisms and other religious activities.

L. Salaverria

* * *

ZUBIRI'S FREE RIDE. A 32-seater turbo-prop SEAir plane got an unexpected hitchhiker on its flight from Pagadian City to Manila recently, when Sen. Miguel Zubiri needed a ride back to the capital.

Zubiri got a free ride from Zamboanga del Sur City, on the turnaround flight of the airline's maiden journey to Pagadian. Good thing the plane, then carrying Seair executives, aviation officials and members of the media, had room for the administration senator.

The domestic carrier launched its twice-weekly Cebu-Pagadian-Cebu flight that day, coinciding with President Macapagal-Arroyo's visit to the province. Zubiri, in fact, was at the Pagadian airport to welcome the President.

Without the usual entourage of security personnel and personal staff, the former Bukidnon representative took the window seat nearest the door of the Dornier 328.

During a stop at the Mactan International Airport about half an hour later, Zubiri obliged numerous requests for picture-taking with passengers and airport staff. The senator posed for photos in between watching ANC's live broadcast of the Senate inquiry into the "Hello Garci" wiretapping controversy.

T. Quismundo

* * *

BLAST FROM THE PAST. From the Sept. 1, 1990 issue of the Philippine Daily Inquirer:

In a recent huddle with media people, Transportation Undersecretary Josie Lichauco could only laugh while denying a column item on her.

According to the item, Lichauco was seen at Kudos, a popular disco, until 5 a.m. with some showbiz personalities.

"It's true that I was there," says Lichauco. "But I did not stay up to 5 a.m. I was just killing time because I had to be back in the office at 10 p.m. to meet with Secretary [Oscar] Orbos."

Lichauco said that after she developed hypertension after the July 16 earthquake, "I resolved to give myself a break from the back-breaking telecommunications work in the office, *tapos sinabi pang hanggang* five *ako ng umaga sa* disco!"

Insists the still-attractive widow: "No I will not do that. I stay up until 2 a.m. but in the office, not in Kudos."

My Sadako

YOUNG BLOOD

Connor Lindog

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.**

"MAN IS AFRAID OF WHAT HE CANNOT UNDERSTAND," somebody once said. If that is true, then math is my Sadako, the character in "The Ring" who freaks me out so badly that I cannot help but shriek in terror whenever I think about her. I don't scream whenever I am faced with a difficult mathematical question, but having to solve one is enough to make me break into a sweat and sob.

Unlike my fear of the supernatural, my dread for math is rational. For more than half of my academic life, math simply stumped me. And I think it's only normal for people getting pummeled by something to eventually fear that thing.

Except for the time when I was in kinder up to Grade 2 and a brief period in college, I was always terrified of math. It's not that I am inept with numbers. My problem is that it usually takes me twice as long as the next person to grasp mathematical concepts. I eventually understand the lessons, but by the time I get to the "Eureka" moment, the class is already moving to another topic.

I can proudly say that I can easily solve problems involving the four basic operations without using any electronic gadget. But then I suppose that at my age that is expected of me. However, when it involves the x and y things, theorems, postulates and countless other concepts that have been snuffed out of my head already or which I never understood in the first place, I am only as good as someone who finished grade school.

So who is to blame for this predicament? Maybe I should pin it on incompetent teachers who never had the skill and competence to make me interested enough in the subject. Perhaps former classmates were also culpable for not extending a helping hand to a struggling colleague. But ultimately, the fault lies in me.

My poor grades were largely due to my laziness. I know that if only I had exerted more effort in math (or all my other subjects for that matter, but that's for another article), my grades would have been a lot better. I would not have merited being featured in a Promil commercial, but at the very least my grades in math would not have begun always with 7. In fact, if I had not behaved properly during my math classes or if I had not sucked up to my teachers by volunteering to erase the blackboards, I would not have graduated from high school.

It was also in high school where I realized that the claim that men are better in math is a fallacy. I went to an exclusive school for boys, but even there arithmetic whizzes were a minority. During our final year in high school, many of us often questioned the practical applications of the complicated mathematical formulas we were studying. Our teachers would always answer that it helped nurture reasoning. Not true, as one experience of mine proved.

During a geometry quiz we had in third year, we were required to prove that one figure was indeed a 90-degree angle by using the theorems and other stuff we had been taught. Around me, classmates with eyebrows knitted would occasionally gaze at the ceiling trying to recall what they had studied the night before and then furiously scribble their answers. Those who did not study tried to copy the answer of those who did. Me? I had nothing more to write after the "Given" I already had on my booklet. Still after I had written my guesses for the other questions and with barely a few minutes left before our teacher would ask us to pass our test papers, I added a few words, hoping they made up the correct answer to the 90-degree problem.

A week later our papers were returned, with disappointing results for me. It was not because I flunked the test; countless failed math quizzes had already erased any illusions I had about possessing an untapped aptitude for math. I was disappointed because my brilliant answer to the 90-degree question was not acceptable to our teacher. I had written on my test paper: "Ma'am, I took out a protractor and I measured the angle. It is indeed 90 degrees."

If that was not reasoning skills in action, I didn't know what was. I thought that at the very least I deserved two points for my effort. OK, so it was stupid answer, but I thought it was worth a shot.

In all seriousness, however, I am not proud of being mathematically challenged. It's not that we get special tax breaks for being afflicted with this condition. Also there is nothing cute or funny about a grown-up man whose greatest fears include math and a dead girl who comes out of TV screens. Nowadays, people my age should be afraid of scarier matters such as another GMA-7 rip-off/remake (e.g. "Zaido") and the reported vice-presidential aspiration of Sen. Bong Revilla Jr.

I thought I was done with math problems when I embarked on a writing career. But one fine day I suddenly realized I was wrong to think so. Some time in the future, I will have children and there's a very real possibility they would suck at math, too, if only because they are related to me. If they turn out to be as bad in math as I was, I guess I would be one of the first persons they would run to for help. So in a few more years, it's back to math for me. Such is the long reach of math's arms.

I plan to preempt this situation by hitting the books again. I hope that when I am done with this new foray into the world of numbers, I will no longer break into a nervous sweat or get all kinds of nightmares after a prolonged exposure to math. Now, if I can figure out how to stop screaming while watching horror movies, I think I'm all set.

Connor Lindog, 22, is a finance officer and writer for the independent Filipino lifestyle publication Kanto.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

THEY SAID

Father image

"My value system came from my father. My morals came from my father. There is nobody else that I looked up to."

—Jose "Joey" de Venecia III

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Loses and gains in NBN deal

TOO BAD THAT A CONTRACT that was aimed at allowing the pupil, Juan de la Cruz Jr., to slip into the cyberworld and transform himself into a competitive, global citizen has been suspended.

In this development, there must be lessons for public executives.

First: public executives must communicate to the general public the benefits of government-to-government agreements. Just because an executive agreement is well-intentioned and exemplary does not mean that its contents do not have to be discussed in public and subjected to scrutiny.

Unfortunately, critics are media-savvy; they know the power of sound bites, and they send out press releases faster than the Cabinet secretaries can post one on their pants. The critics can stir public sentiment against the deal by simply raising suspicions of corruption. They do not even have to argue about the noble intentions of an executive agreement, yet they get the headlines.

Second, public executives can no longer resort to executive agreements in lieu of competitive public bidding. Executive agreements, especially those involving mega-billions (in pesos) for infrastructure, are very much prone to controversies.

True, there is a law that exempts government-to-government agreements from the lengthy and time-consuming legal niceties of notifying, receiving, comparing, qualifying and selecting from among the best offers from private companies. This shortcut, this window of opportunity, is now closed because of the NBN controversy. Look at what happened. Instead of going ahead with implementing a project in the shortest possible time, the broadband deal is gone. Nobody knows when it is going to be revived.

It is better now for all public contracts to undergo the rigors of full disclosure in a public bidding. Sunshine is the best germ-killer.

Third, government and the private sector have to agree on an ethical issue: are tied-loans a form of corruption? When two countries sign a supposedly concessional loan agreement in which the recipient country can only use the services or materials of the nationals of the other country, does this not mean favoritism?

If there are similar executive deals, particularly those involving infrastructure, government executives should preempt critics and frame these deals as beneficial to the general public before the critics vilify them.

I believe President Macapagal-Arroyo wants the physical infrastructure built within deadlines and in terms that are aboveboard and credible. The fastest and most efficient way, however, at this point is for her to insist that her Cabinet secretaries work through competitive public biddings.

—**ROMEO J. PAJARILLO,**
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Don't forgo due process in Cris Mendez's case

THE DEATH OF CRIS ANTHONY Mendez was tragic but I am consoled by the thought that although the universal moral principle involved is long, it bends toward justice.

However, I am aghast at the measures being used by the authorities of the University of the Philippines, the premier state institution, in bending due process. When I learned that they would issue a "preventive suspension" order against the officers of the Sigma Rho Fraternity for the latter's alleged involvement in the Mendez incident, I was automatically reminded of the "preventive detention" used by the Marcos dictatorship 25 years ago in jailing 30,000 Filipinos opposed to his regime; some of them were placed in solitary confinement without access to lawyers or the courts.

I am sure the lessons of martial law are not lost on the UP authorities so it is hard to imagine that they can engage in similar Marcosian behavior—suspending students in violation of their fundamental right to due process and of their right to confront their accusers. (Just in case the UP authorities have forgotten, the rights to life, liberty and property are so fundamental as to require compliance with due process and the basic standards of fairness and justice.)

If this is the draconian policy that the UP leadership adopts, then I am surprised that those who are accused chose not to participate in this farce. The UP leadership might as well try them in a "kangaroo court" (similar to a military tribunal during martial law) and find them guilty and condemn them to the stake to appease the mob crying out for blood or to satisfy the opportunistic politicians who are prone to political posturing. In this way, UP can avoid all pretensions of fairness and justice which the institution proclaims it instills.

Finally, let me convey a passage from the lawyer's pledge to UP authorities: "to be at all times, even at personal sacrifice, a champion of due process, in court or not, for all persons, whether they be powerful or envied, or my neighbors, or be among the helpless, hated or oppressed."

—**SID GARBANZOS,**
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
LETTERS

Flesh trade seen to be on the loose in Caloocan City

STROLL ALONG RIZAL AVENUE Extension around the corner of 2nd, 3rd and 4th Avenues and you wouldn't miss noticing beer and karaoke joints serving as a marketplace for the flesh trade in Caloocan. Worse, walk along A. Mabini, and when you get several meters away from the city hall you'll see similar establishments.

From the time I first became aware of the social issues around me more than two decades ago, I've heard four Caloocan mayors, including the incumbent mayor, Enrico Echeverri, declaring war on prostitution. And oddly enough, I observed that they usually would make such declaration in their first few months in office. As we say in vernacular idiom "*pa pogi lang*." Good or bad, intentional or not, media have been part of this farce.

I just hope that Mayor Echeverri would be unlike his predecessor and would really push for meaningful reforms in Caloocan. His constituents deserve more than the cosmetic public relations campaign. What we would like to see is a more innovative, aggressive approach in addressing the city's most basic and pressing concerns—crimes, pollution, unfriendly business environment, poor health service and, of course, housing lack.

Address these concerns, and the incidence of prostitution will go down to an insignificant level—with or without media hype.

—**GERALDO MANALO,**
gmanalo@gmail.com

House Bill 17 not pro-abortion

EQUATING THE REPRODUCTIVE Health Care Bill with the promotion of abortion is a misinformed and misleading exercise. (INQUIRER, 9/19/07) No reproductive health bill filed in Congress seeks to legalize abortion. In fact, the prevention of abortion and management of post-abortion complications are key components of the bill (Sec. 5).

The recognition that abortion is prohibited and penalized under Articles 256-259 of the Revised Penal Code remains. But there is also a recognition of the critical need—when abortion is resorted to despite the prohibition—to manage post-abortion complications in a humane and compassionate manner. A patient shouldn't be left to die just because she is poor or desperate.

The bill will penalize health care service providers that refuse to attend to these patients (Sec. 15, HB 17), just as Republic Act 8344 sanctions hospitals and medical clinics that deny appropriate initial medical treatment to emergency and serious cases. This fundamental protection should be given to the Filipino patient; this is not promoting abortion.

With their needless focus on abortion, the bill's critics fail to appreciate the crucial elements of reproductive health care that, among others, address: (1) maternal, infant and child health and nutrition, (2) the promotion of breastfeeding, (3) family planning and information services, (4) the prevention of abortion and management of post-abortion complications, (5) adolescent and youth health, (6) the prevention and management of RTIs, HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections, (7) the elimination of violence against women, (8) education and counseling on sexuality and sexual and reproductive health, (9) treatment of breast and reproductive tract cancers and other gynecological conditions, (10) male involvement and participation in reproductive health, and (11) the prevention and treatment of infertility and sexual dysfunction.

Clearly, HB 17 is not an advertisement for abortion and sexual promiscuity, but an advocacy for reproductive health as a basic human right. And as state-party to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (Cedaw), the Philippine government must protect and facilitate the enjoyment of this right. The passage of the Reproductive Health Care Bill into law, not knee-jerk arguments from its critics, ensures that.

—**MARIE HAZEL**
LAVITORIA SALIGAN,
Sentro ng Alternatibong
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Daring 'cloud-seeder' lauded

APPLAUSE FOR CAPT. GIEMEL Espino. ("Daring PAF rainmaker wins award," INQUIRER, 9/24/07) While aviators generally do try to avoid clouds while flying, cloud-seeding pilots "go for it," so to speak.

I know. My dad, Capt. Benjamin Baculpo, was one. He used to go cloud-seeding in the provinces of Iloilo and Tugegarao. His second of three plane crashes happened when he was cloud-seeding in Iloilo in 1996.

The plane was completely wrecked, but miraculously he just sustained bruises. No serious or grave injury. The crash didn't stop him from bringing rains to the driest areas in the Philippines.

To Captain Espino, well done and all the best!

—**MARILYN BACULPO,**
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Kwok losing faith in his anti-graft fight in RP?

TONY KWOK, THE PRESIDENTIAL ANTI-graft adviser said the fight against corruption is an uphill battle because of weak laws, slow judicial system and public cynicism. (INQUIRER, 8/4/06) The reason for this, he said, is that the anti-graft laws are inadequate; and our lawmakers failed miserably in providing the Office of the Ombudsman enough investigative powers.

Kwok's line of reasoning is unsustainable:

1. The Office of the Ombudsman does not lack teeth. It has all the investigative and prosecuting powers it needs. Kwok should have read the law.

2. It is unfair for Kwok to say that the anti-graft laws are inadequate. Our laws, criminal and administrative, against graft are sufficient.

On the slow judicial system, I agree with him. The Ombudsman and the Sandiganbayan should work double time in deciding cases.

As to public cynicism, I think Kwok hit the nail right on the head. The public seems to forget cases about graft.

The INQUIRER's March 11, 2005 editorial, titled "Starving the corrupt," quoted Kwok as saying that he was "confident that given the effective enforcement and successful prosecution by the Office of the Ombudsman and partnership approach in this corruption-prevention project, it is possible that this three-year project will see marked improvement in the eradication of corruption in the country."

The time is almost up (two years and five months). Why can't Kwok show proof of reduced graft and corruption?

Kwok is currently overseeing projects funded by the European Union to improve government agencies' internal anti-corruption mechanism and by the US government, why can't he make a report about the projects?

Why did Kwok have to wait for the Philippines to be dubbed the most corrupt in Asia?

—**GUALBERTO J. DELA LLANA,**
Castillejos, Zambales

Erap cannot be pardoned under plunder law

AS SOON AS THE SANDIGANBAYAN READ its verdict finding former President Joseph Ejercito Estrada guilty beyond reasonable doubt of the crime of plunder, politicians of all shades and colors have called for clemency.

Former Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr., a noted nationalist, who started the ball rolling by accusing Erap in the Senate, said that the former president had suffered enough. Sen. Manuel Villar, the president of an administration-ruled Senate whose members are mostly from opposition ranks, pleaded for amnesty. Sen. Mar Roxas, seen as a presidential candidate in the coming 2010 elections, filed a resolution for pardon.

Indeed, one and all commented on the possibility of pardon, stressing that others—especially in the present government—appeared more rapacious than Estrada. We ourselves were mystified by these Christian protestations because, at the impeachment trial, almost everybody was ready to lynch Erap.

It is amazing that amid the calls for Christian charity and presidential clemency, the prohibition on the granting of pardon to any person convicted under the law on plunder (RA 7080) is totally lost.

—**NELSON D. LAVIÑA,**
ambasssador (ret.),
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Dialogue helps GSIS serve better its clientele

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK MEDARDO Mercado of the Manila Public School Teachers Association (MPSTA) for stressing the need for the Government Service Insurance System to dialogue with public school teachers and come up with meaningful solutions to issues concerning their benefits. (INQUIRER, 9/15/07)

The GSIS has had quite a number of discussions with the MPSTA as well as with other Department of Education employees' groups. In fact, the GSIS just had a dialogue with DepEd personnel organizations last Sept. 20.

We would like to point out, however, that the fruits of a dialogue do not grow overnight. The demands of DepEd employees need to be properly deliberated upon, and consequent actions require some measure of adjustment on the part of the GSIS.

What is important, though, is that the communication lines remain open. The GSIS, for its part, looks forward to this exchange of views because this feedback mechanism enables the GSIS to serve its stakeholders better.

—**ELLA E. VALENCERINA,**
vice president,
Public Affairs Office,
Government Service Insurance System,
Financial Center, Pasay City

Let NBN 'players' submit to lie detector test

THE SENATE INVESTIGATION OF THE BROADband deal has cost the government millions of pesos plus precious hours, all lost to irrelevant, stupid and repetitious questions. All those questioned, despite their inconsistent answers, claimed they were telling the truth. The senators became students of the Cabinet secretaries. The secretaries wasted almost eight hours watching a *zarzuela* instead of attending to their jobs. They came in full force just to show their support for the questionable characters involved in the broadband scandal. What a shame!

It was frustrating to watch some senators acting as defenders and lawyers of the accused. How much are their fees? Shame on them!'

If the senators sincerely want the people to know the truth and nothing but the truth, I challenge the Senate to compel all those involved to submit themselves to a lie detector test. Refusal should be taken as a sign of guilt. Let us do it the way it is being done on the TV show "Truth or Lie." And show the tests live on TV.

If the President won't allow it, we know where the guilt points to—to the mystery "small one" and "big one."

The Filipino people want the truth. Give it to them.

—**GEORGE B. REYES,**
10 Tamarind Rd.,
Caloocan City

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No rocket science needed for teacher's award streak

By Ma. Diosa Labiste
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—IF LIFE'S A LOTTO, SCIENCE teacher Josette Biyo has won it several times.

On Sept. 19, she copped another grand prize, the Presidential or Lingkod Bayan award, given by the Civil Service Commission (CSC) to government workers in recognition of their commitment to the ideals of public service.

And Biyo, 49, who is also the director of the Philippine Science High School in Western Visayas, exemplifies that dedication as a government employee.

Biyo, who has a doctorate in biology, was cited for "developing a culture of science among the youth through research, resulting in the high quality of researches of students and faculty members, gaining both national and international recognition."

Her work on "introducing science research modules and innovations, giving motivational speeches makes her a world-class teacher worthy of emulation," according to the CSC.

Biyo is one of the five individual recipients of the Lingkod Bayan awards. Other awardees are Air Force Capt. Giemel Espino, Trade Undersecretary Zenaida Maglaya, Chief Supt. Samson Tucay and Gov. Rolando Yebes of Zamboanga del Norte.

Two institutional awards were given to the Benguet State University for developing potato and sweet potato varieties for the Cordillera, and the Philippine General Hospital.

Most meaningful

"I have won many top awards but this (Lingkod Bayan) is the most meaningful of them all. The screening was rigid and I didn't expect to emerge as one of the five winners," said Biyo.

She felt honored to have competed with politicians and ordinary government workers who must have spent years doing their work unrecognized.

Biyo, who joined the government in 1994, is proud to be recognized as an outstanding public employee, aside from being a science teacher.

As a winner, she is entitled to an automatic promotion or a salary equivalent to the next higher position, but the latter is more likely since she is already holding the top position as a director.

The award also comes with a prize of P100,000.

Past awards

Before she received the Lingkod Bayan, Biyo had won several coveted national and international awards that come with handsome cash prizes. The biggest was the 2002 Intel Excellence in Teaching given in Louisville, Kentucky, in the United States. She not only bagged $5,000 but, as part of recognition, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Lincoln laboratory also named an asteroid (minor planet) after her.

The Intel award propelled her to celebrity status and opened the door for more awards (a room in her house is filled with these awards).

She received an honorary degree of doctor of humanities from the Manila Central University and numerous invitations to give speeches in the country and abroad.

She also became an endorser of insurance and a pharmaceutical company that eventually supported some science research projects of students, and received citations and medals of merit from President Macapagal-Arroyo, the Senate and expatriates in the US for being the first Filipino and the first Asian teacher to win the Intel award.

Biyo was named one of the Ten Outstanding Young Men in 1998. She received the Metrobank Outstanding Teacher in 1997 and the 2004 Metrobank award "for those who stand out for continuing excellence and service." The first one has no cash reward, but Metrobank gives P100,000 to winners.

Press darling

Biyo was recognized as outstanding Ilonggo in the field of education by the Iloilo provincial government in 2003.

She is a "press darling" or a bankable personality to be profiled by magazines and coffee table book writers. The stories they wrote confer on her more recall, a face to an otherwise cut-off world of science teaching, and an interesting hook and angle to attract more readers.

For example, the repeated quote was from Biyo's book published in 2005 and titled "A Trip to Planet Biyo: I dreamt of stars … I got a planet." The book, which she distributed to students, schools and private groups, has the message "Being a teacher is a noble profession; being a Filipino is something to be proud of."

Biyo said many had listened to her message, as shown by the e-mail, letters and feedback that she got. She believed that she "has inspired individuals and companies to pursue their dreams, and even convinced several people, especially teachers, doctors and nurses to stay in the country."

Biyo tries to wear her celebrity status lightly. She said through SMS: "In winning the awards, you don't have to be somebody else. Just be yourself and enjoy what you are doing. No rocket science needed. Just consistency of purpose and giving the best of your self for the glory of God and country."

JOSETTE Biyo of Phil. Science High School shows her plaque for recognition as Gawad Lingkod Bayan. ARNOLD ALMACEN

Heavenly fill of Negros 'piaya'

By Carla P. Gomez
Bacolod City

NEGROS' MUSCOVADO SUGar, which is gaining popularity in the growing health-conscious global market, is synonymous with those mouth-watering pastries only its people can make best.

The dark brown, slightly coarse, unrefined sugar, which still contains the minerals and vitamins originally found in sugarcane, has a pleasant bitter-sour taste from molasses not found in regular sugar, says pastry reinventor Millie Kilayko.

It is also this sugar that makes Negrense pastries delightfully different, bringing back memories of the old days of leisure and long lunches.

Carrying on the tradition of making muscovado-laced pastries are second cousins Maritess Sanchez of Silay City's famous El Ideal and Kilayko of Casa Carmela in Bacolod City. Both come from old Silay families who have a reputation that revolves around delicious meals capped by desserts.

KILAYKO'S "piaya"—crisp, light and thin

Sanchez and Kilayko also live in the homes they have known since birth, and their factories are just a flight of stairs down their living quarters.

Sanchez has chosen to remain close to her workplace to continue the family business that was passed on to her—along with all its original recipes. Kilayko finds her proximity to her factory the best assurance to meet the best manufacturing practices, especially sanitation.

"As I take my daily 30-minute walk around my garden, I can poke my eyes into the work site and check on the way it is cleaned before the rest of the workers come in," Kilayko said.

Handed-down traditions

Sanchez's and Kilayko's links with the past are perhaps the reason they have a devotion to "perpetuate" the recipes of old.

Sanchez said her grandfather, Cesar Locsin, together with his two sisters began making cookies before going solo by starting El Ideal Bakery on Rizal Street. El Ideal, for three generations, has been the place where travelers buy the deliciously sweet *pasalubong* items for friends.

Locsin passed on the business to Sanchez's mother, Alicia Locsin Villanueva, who, in turn, passed it on to her.

Many of El Ideal's sweets are made with muscovado sugar that the growing health conscious population see as a healthier option, she said.

Among the products are its golden brown angel cookies made from cuttings of hosts served during communion, high-fiber "muscobite" cookies made with wheat flour, guava-apple pies, *butong-butong* (chewy sugar nougats) candies, and "musco bars" similar to butterscotch.

And, of course, the star of the delicacies is the "*piaya*" still made the way Sanchez's grandfather did three generations ago.

Kilayko, on the other hand, has a passion for creating new products using the personalities of the old and traditional, innovating from what has been handed down to present generations of cooks, and putting fresh change into them before handing them over to the next.

Last year, Kilayko introduced her version of the "*piaya*"—crisp, light and thin, unlike the original piaya that has a thicker layer of muscovado sandwiched in it. While the new product gives one's palate only a delicate flavor of muscovado sugar between fine layers, it still carries the personality of the one prepared by generations of cooks before her.

Inspired by the success of her reinvention, Kilayko introduced bite-size "*piaya*," which she calls "*piayito*," and healthy versions using whole wheat.

Casa Carmela's crisp and thin "*piaya*" also come with different personalities: tropical (mango, banana and *ube*), gourmet (after-dinner dark chocolate with mint, cinnamon and espresso), cocktail (low salt, pesto and country herb) and low sugar (a blend of muscovado sugar and Splenda).

However, the ones with muscovado sugar filling—whether they be using traditional flour recipe or the healthier whole wheat dough—still remains the most popular, Kilayko said.

Trade fair

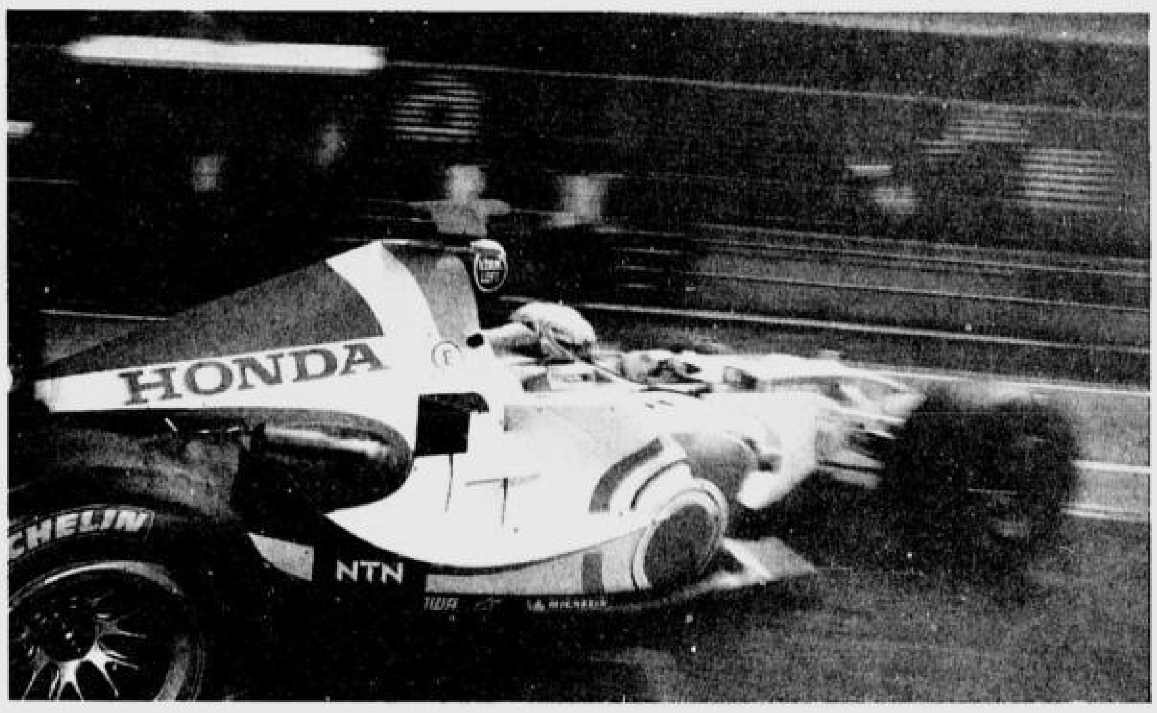
Kilayko and Sanchez are among the 73 Negrense producers who are bringing their products to the Association of Negros Producers' (ANP) 22nd Negros Trade Fair at Rockwell in Makati City on Oct. 3-8. The group banners "Innovation and Reinvention" as this year's theme.

This time, Kilayko said she would be combining the two most popular delicacies—"*piaya*" and "*barquillos*"—all in a bite.

Keeping its crisp and thin features, and retaining the fine layer of muscovado filling of her *piaya*, it is rolled into the shape of the *barquillos*. This new product Kilayko calls *paiquillos* is a perfect match to a scoop of ice cream or a cup of coffee.

Kilayko also makes crispy *piaya* ice cream cones and accepts orders for crispy *piaya* fortune cookies.

Organizing the trade fair "is not just to create a shopping venue, but to continually seek and tap new domestic and international markets and bolster inter-provincial and international linkages," said Doreen Alicia Peña, ANP vice president for trade fair and marketing.



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Mining firms buying tribe support

By Melvin Gascon
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAYOMBONG, NUEVA VIZCAYA—TWO FOREIGN FIRMS HAVE won the support of tribal communities for mining exploration in ore-rich areas in Kasibu town through cash promises, documents showed.

Royalco Resources Ltd., formerly Oxiana Philippines Inc. (OPI), has committed to give "monthly salaries" of P3,000 to P4,000 to 34 Bugkalot elders and leaders who approved its two-year exploration project in the villages of Pao and Kakidugen in eastern Nueva Vizcaya.

The amount is their supposed compensation as "liaison officers" for the duration of the project, according to a compliance certificate issued by the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP).

More promises

The certificate was issued to indicate that the Bugkalot tribe has given its free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) to Royalco's exploration site in the villages of Pao and Kakidugen, which are part of its ancestral domain in eastern Nueva Vizcaya.

Royalco has also pledged to provide a "trust fund" of P150,000 to the Bugkalot Indigenous Cultural Community.

It has promised to give landowners P3,000 in "land rental" for every hole drilled within his property that are part of the exploration project.

On the other hand, OceanaGold Philippines Exploration Corp. (Ogpec) has also given P50,000 to barangay officials of Papaya upon signing of an agreement expressing their approval of its exploration project.

It pledged to give the village a quarterly payment of P30,000 for "community development projects" in the village, the agreement entered into by Ogpec and Papaya officials showed.

Officials of the mining companies denied that they were bribing the tribal leaders for them to approve the exploration projects.

Not bribe

"The thrust of the company is development, so that when we explore and we don't find anything feasible [after the mining exploration], we hope that even when we leave the area, our programs can have an impact on the lives of the people," said Joey Nelson Ayson, Royalco country manager.

Ramoncito Gozar, Ogpec vice president, said it is not company policy to bribe people to get their consent. "Rather, we support livelihood community development and the improvement of the standards of living of the Papaya community as direct beneficiaries of the project," he said.

What the companies did is "exploitation," said Bernabe Almirol, convenor of the non-government group Dapon Indigenous Peoples Center Inc.

"How can there be free consent from the affected tribe when they are being lured with money in exchange for their approval [of the project]? This clearly is exploitation of our indigenous peoples," said Almirol.

Most residents in Kasibu have remained steadfast in opposing mining in their communities, and rejecting the benefits being offered to them by the companies, he claimed.

Blockade

Royalco personnel failed to enter the exploration site last month after Kalanguya, Ifugao and Bugkalot villagers set up a barricade and stopped the entry of heavy equipment by sitting in the middle of the mountain road in Paquet Village.

Residents of Papaya signed a petition rejecting Ogpec's exploration project, citing a barangay ordinance that declared their village a watershed area and, thus, free from any mining activity.

ENCROACHMENT EV ESPIRITU/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON
The rice terraces of Ifugao are slowly, but surely, getting smaller as increasing population keeps driving people closer and closer to the edges of the famed farms.

Protesters say dredging source of corruption

LEGAZPI CITY—PROTESTERS demanded transparency in the P655-million project to dredge rivers here, raising suspicions it was just being used to enrich corrupt public works officials.

At least 200 members of Church groups and other organizations marched to the DPWH regional office near Aquinas University here, where Mass was celebrated for those who died at the height of Supertyphoon Milenyo a year ago.

Joel Calla, head of the People's Quarry Movement secretariat, said the poor should benefit from the P655 million project by making it labor-intensive instead of mechanized.

Calla said the Yawa River should be declared an open quarry site.

"The series of calamities worsened poverty," he said.

His group has been pushing for labor-intensive dredging of rivers, which uses hand tools to dredge and quarry sand, gravel, and boulders, against the mechanized method, which the DPWH claimed has already been completed.

Heavily-silted

The Yawa River is integral in receiving and holding floodwater coming from the gullies of the Mayon Volcano, especially during typhoons.

It became heavily-silted after volcanic debris from the volcano were washed out by heavy rainfall brought by Supertyphoon Reming last year.

The movement estimates that 50 quarry sites can fit in the 11-km river that leads to the Albay Gulf.

The DPWH's mechanized dredging of the Yawa River alone costs more than P60 million.

"The people should be primary participants in projects being implemented by the government. They should be informed and consulted, which never happened in the implementation of the dredging projects," Calla said.

Asked where sand dredged from the rivers go, DPWH Regional Director Orlando Roces said they use them as fillers of dumps while some serve as earth-dike structures on riversides.

Dredging projects

Some of the aggregates, he said, were stockpiled at the regional center site but he clarified that the agency is not, in any way, making money from the dredging projects.

Roces added that all the projects were consulted with authorities, like disaster agencies and local government officials.

He said these authorities represent the people so it's not true that the people's right to become involved is being undermined.

He said the DPWH followed procurement procedures prescribed by Republic Act 9184 or the Government Procurement Act.

"All dredging projects underwent open bidding. They can always come to this office to check on the documents, we are very much open," Roces said.

He added that the DPWH does not oppose open quarry in the Yawa River but was wary that flood-control structures along the river channel might be damaged by unregulated quarry activities. *Ephraim Aguilar, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

Arroyos accused of evading CARP

By Carla P. Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—A FARMERS' group criticized the Arroyo family for allegedly using trade agreements with China and the Biofuels Law to keep a huge property in Negros Occidental from agrarian reform.

While Rep. Ignacio Arroyo (Negros Occidental, 5th District) had said that the Rivulet Agro-Industrial Corp. owned the 157-hectare Hacienda Bacan, Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) chair Rafael Mariano maintained that the Arroyos own the company.

Mariano claimed that the Arroyos are trying to protect their land through the government's agreement with China and the Biofuels Act.

"Now the Arroyo family is saying that the farm is to be used to build an ethanol plant. They are using the argument that commercial and industrial lands are exempted from distribution," Mariano said.

Representative Arroyo, however, said the KMP charges are not true.

While KMP accused the Arroyos of using RP-China pacts as an excuse for the conversion of their property into an industrial estate for the building of an ethanol plant, Chinese investors who had expressed interest in investing in Negros Occidental were eyeing Murcia town and Kabankalan City, not Isabela.

Two memorandums of agreement, inked in China October last year in the presence of President Macapagal-Arroyo, involved the construction of two ethanol plants in Negros Occidental estimated to cost $65 million and were expected to create thousands of jobs, Representative Arroyo said earlier.

He denied that his brother owned the farm or that he is one of the Rivulet owners.

Provincial agrarian reform officer Teresita Depeñoso said records showed that First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo bought the Hacienda Bacan in Isabela town in 1994 but added that it is possible that he sold it since.

What the DAR has are titles of the property as of March 19, 2001 that includes a certificate of sale of the delinquent property issued by the office of the Isabela treasurer for Title 105742 Lot 41 covering 157.2992 hectares with entry number 361407 dated April 1994, Depeñoso said.

The final bill of sale at public auction on April 8, 1994 states that the property was sold to Jose Miguel Arroyo, she added.

The area where the property is located was reclassified from agricultural to an industrial estate by the Isabela town government on Sept. 27, 2005, Depeñoso said.

Agrarian Reform Secretary Pangandaman said his department's legal department is studying whether or not Hacienda Bacan could be covered by land reform as it has been reclassified into an industrial estate.

Pangandaman also said he has yet to see the documents to determine if Hacienda Bacan is owned by the First Gentleman as alleged by Task Force Mapalad.

METROBRIEFS

Scholarships for OFW dependents

DAVAO CITY—The government is offering 100 scholarship slots to qualified dependents of overseas Filipino workers.

Ron Lionel Bartolome, Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (Owwa) chief for Southern Mindanao, said scholars will be selected nationwide through competitive tests.

He said applicants should not have enrolled in any post-secondary courses to qualify. *Joselle Badilla, Inquirer Mindanao*

Ban on stalls, liquor in fiestas

ILOILO CITY—Priests in this city asked the city government to ban stalls and alcoholic drinks in public plazas during fiestas.

In a letter to Iloilo City Mayor Jerry Treñas, 27 priests under the Vicariates of Saints Peter and Paul of the Jaro Archdiocese urged the mayor to stop "turning the plaza(s) into a market place and a source of noise pollution" during fiestas. *Nestor P. Burgos Jr., Inquirer Visayas*

'Goring' destroys Bacolod houses

BACOLOD CITY—A whirlwind, brought by tropical storm Goring, struck a village here and destroyed four houses.

Alfredo Enulaga, an owner of a damaged house, said he was sleeping when the whirlwind struck.

Debris hung from electric cables after the whirlwind passed. *Carla P. Gomez, Inquirer Visayas*

Mangrove planting in Sorsogon

PRIETO DIAZ, Sorsogon—Thousands of students, government employees and members of various private organizations trooped to this coastal town Sept. 19 in a mass mangrove planting.

Reynulfo Juan, regional executive director of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, said the mass planting was part of the Green Philippines program, which aims to plant at least 20 million trees nationwide. *Bobby Labalan, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

Couple held for illegal fertilizer

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—The police's Criminal Investigation and Detection Group in Bulacan arrested a couple suspected to be behind the manufacture of illegal fertilizers in the province.

CIDG Bulacan chief Supt. Ritchie Posadas said the search on the house of suspects Manolito and Lynn Ramos in Bustos, Bulacan on Monday yielded 12 bottles of a liquid fertilizer brand, 85 pieces of empty plastic bottles, four plastic drums, 13 bundles of packaging carton, sales invoices, posters and a wooden paddle believed to be used in mixing chemicals.

The search came after police and a representative of the Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority arrested the Ramos couple in a buy-bust operation on Sept. 13. *Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon*

Free artificial limbs to poor

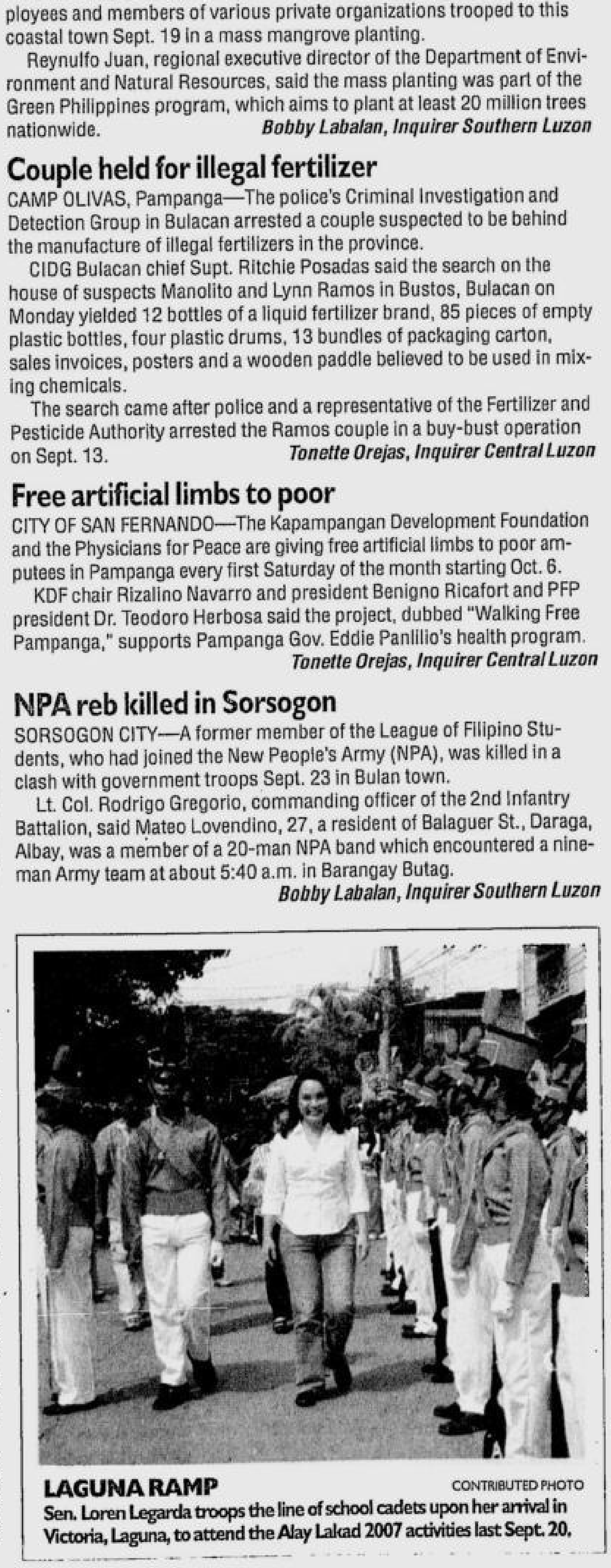
CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—The Kapampangan Development Foundation and the Physicians for Peace are giving free artificial limbs to poor amputees in Pampanga every first Saturday of the month starting Oct. 6.

KDF chair Rizalino Navarro and president Benigno Ricafort and PFP president Dr. Teodoro Herbosa said the project, dubbed "Walking Free Pampanga," supports Pampanga Gov. Eddie Panlilio's health program. *Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon*

NPA reb killed in Sorsogon

SORSOGON CITY—A former member of the League of Filipino Students, who had joined the New People's Army (NPA), was killed in a clash with government troops Sept. 23 in Bulan town.

Lt. Col. Rodrigo Gregorio, commanding officer of the 2nd Infantry Battalion, said Mateo Lovendino, 27, a resident of Balaguer St., Daraga, Albay, was a member of a 20-man NPA band which encountered a nine-man Army team at about 5:40 a.m. in Barangay Butag. *Bobby Labalan, Inquirer Southern Luzon*



LAGUNA RAMP CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Sen. Loren Legarda troops the line of school cadets upon her arrival in Victoria, Laguna, to attend the Alay Lakad 2007 activities last Sept. 20.

Raise case to SC, Palace tells Senate

From page A1

planning secretary, "cannot be compelled" to testify on matters spoken in confidence between Ms Arroyo and members of the Cabinet.

Apostol had said there was no "clear-cut" resolution in the high court's ruling.

"It says the Senate may bring the matter to the Supreme Court if the executive refuses to answer [questions]," Apostol had said.

Letter from GMA

According to Remonde, the letter from the President authorizing Neri to invoke confidentiality under the doctrine of executive privilege was "being prepared" by the office of Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita.

Ermita had earlier said that Ms Arroyo, through his office, would be "ready" to provide Neri the authorization per the Supreme Court ruling "stating that [executive privilege] can be invoked only by the President or through the executive secretary by order of the President."

Yesterday, Ermita said he did not give new guidelines to Neri for the resumption of the latter's testimony at the Senate next week.

"The guidelines are the same. Depending on the conditions, our Cabinet members should know when and how to invoke executive privilege. That remains the same," Ermita said.

He said there were "matters of governance that we feel should not be divulged for some important reasons."

Ermita said Cabinet members had the right to invoke executive privilege in refusing to answer certain questions.

"This is a legal matter that is supported by jurisprudence," he said.

JDV's advice

Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. aired a piece of advice for Neri, his longtime budget and planning officer in the House of Representatives.

"Answer all the questions. That's my advice to him," De Venecia said when asked what he thought Neri should do.

"But he is covered by executive privilege. We should respect that," the Speaker said.

Asked if Neri should resign or take a leave of absence in order for him to be exempted from EO 464, the Speaker said: "He's a brilliant Cabinet official. He knows what he's doing."

De Venecia compared executive privilege to a journalist's privileged information:

"Neri is covered by executive privilege. He cannot be compelled to talk [about his conversations with the President], like journalists.

"[Journalists] can't be compelled to reveal ... certain information [relative to their profession, such as sources of news]."

A group calling itself Lawyers and Advocates for Accountability, Transparency, Integrity and Good Governance (Latigo) is also looking to the Supreme Court to resolve the NBN controversy once and for all.

Latigo yesterday asked the high court to use its power of judicial review to annul the $329-million NBN deal on grounds that it violated Philippine laws for extravagant use of public funds.

The group also asked the high court to compel the government to open the NBN project to public bidding in accordance with the law.

It said the tribunal could use its power to study the contract signed by Transportation and Communications Secretary Leandro Mendoza on behalf for the government, and to strike it down "for having been entered into in gross, deliberate and wanton violation of constitutional and statutory provisions."

The NBN project, which entails connecting government offices through landline, cellular and Internet services, was to be undertaken by the Chinese firm ZTE Corp.

On Sept. 11, acting on a petition filed by Iloilo Vice Gov. Rolex Suplico, the Supreme Court issued a temporary restraining order on the project's implementation.

Amsterdam Holdings Inc. (AHI), owned by Jose "Joey" de Venecia III, which submitted an unsolicited proposal for the project, had also asked the high court to compel the government to provide it a copy of the agreement with China and other relevant documents.

Joey de Venecia, son and namesake of the Speaker, has accused Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. of brokering the deal with ZTE in exchange for kickbacks.

He also told the Senate that the President's husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo, had tried to bully him into backing off from pursuing the broadband project.

For free

Latigo said the AHI proposal was better than the government's deal with ZTE:

"Respondent ZTE's proposal will cost Filipino taxpayers in the amount of roughly P15,000,000,000, whereas, a similar proposal of an interested proponent, AHI, offered to undertake the project free of charge to the government.

"Under the existing ZTE-DOTC Broadband Deal, the government does not only have to spend for the entire project cost, but also incur a huge debt, in exchange for something it can have for free."

Latigo noted that the deal had been the subject of much controversy, and had also led to President Macapagal-Arroyo's negative trust rating.

It said the issue could be bigger than the "Hello Garci" wiretapping controversy.

It added that the deal with ZTE ran contrary to the Government Procurement Reform Act, the Build-Operate-Transfer Law, the Public Telecommunications Policy Act, the Foreign Borrowings Law, the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act and the Civil Code. ***With reports from Alcuin Papa and Norman Bordadora***

ZTE execs to discuss loan details only with DOTC in closed-door session

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

OFFICIALS OF CHINA'S ZTE Corp. have refused to make public the details of its $329-million loan contract with the Philippine government to put up a National Broadband Network.

Its lawyers from the Angara Abello Concepcion Regala and Cruz (Accra) law office have told the Senate that they would discuss the details of its supply contract only with the Department of Transportation and Communications in a closed-door executive session.

Discussions during an executive session cannot be revealed to the public.

Sen. Manuel Roxas II, chair of the trade and commerce committee and one of the cochairs of the Senate inquiry into the NBN deal, said ZTE's stance could be a ploy to conceal overpricing in the deal.

Jose "Joey" de Venecia III, owner of the losing project proponent Amsterdam Holdings Inc. (AHI), has told the Senate inquiry that ZTE's project proposal was overpriced by around $200 million.

The deal involves a $329-million loan that the Philippine government would have to pay over a 20-year period.

Confidentiality

In a letter to the Senate blue ribbon committee dated Sept. 25, Accra submitted the annexes of ZTE's supply contract with the DOTC, including the bill of materials and the corresponding prices.

But in the letter signed by senior partner Rogelio Vinluan, Accra demanded strict confidentiality in the information, invoking the interest of the Philippine government, trade secrets and intellectual property rights.

The law firm demanded that the contract details be examined by the Senate committee in an executive session.

"*Ano ang kinatatakutan nila* (What are they afraid of)?" Roxas told reporters yesterday.

"Why won't they reveal the specifics of their broadband system? I think it's because we'll find out about overpricing. That's why even though they have submitted the details, they put in a restriction that these cannot be [made] public," he said.

Abalos knows too much; 80 new solons may be for impeachment

From page A1

tion would complicate an otherwise simple issue.

"It will become complicated only because of what Abalos might and could say and the corresponding collateral damage for the administration," he said.

80 neophyte solons

Administration legislators are in a delicate balancing act as to how to handle the matter, according to Casiño.

A senior administration lawmaker said Abalos could never be sure how his colleagues in the majority would decide the impeachment complaint.

"Many will cross party lines," the administration lawmaker said, asking not to be identified because of the sensitive position he holds.

The lawmaker said the bulk of the endorsement for the impeachment complaint might come from "honest-to-goodness" neophyte congressmen numbering around 80.

"For them, the case is simple: There was a positive assertion and a positive witness against Abalos," he said. "My gut feel is that they will move even without the leadership shepherding them."

JDV's promise to God

Under House rules, an impeachment case can be automatically transmitted to the Senate for trial if it is endorsed by at least 80 lawmakers, avoiding possibly bruising debates in the House.

Speaker Jose de Venecia—whose businessman-son Jose "Joey" de Venecia III set the ball rolling against Abalos—said yesterday he would not intervene but would simply carry out his ministerial duty of referring the impeachment complaint to the committee on justice, which will decide if it has merit or not.

"I pity him. He is being hit in the Senate, in the House of Representatives, before the Ombudsman and the Supreme Court," De Venecia said in an interview.

"I will not intervene. That I promise before God," he said, adding: "I shall be fair.... Even more than neutral, I will be fair."

The impeachment case filed by Iloilo Vice Gov. Rolex Suplico accuses Abalos of offering bribes while brokering the $329-million National Broadband Network (NBN) project in favor of China's telecommunications giant ZTE Corp. Malacañang later suspended the deal.

Suplico cited four grounds—bribery, betrayal of public trust, culpable violation of the Constitution and graft and corruption.

Redeeming House image

The administration lawmaker who preferred anonymity said the Abalos case presented the House leadership with an opportunity to rehabilitate its negative public image. An incessant accusation against congressmen was their supposed misuse of the "pork barrel."

"The House is at a crossroads," the lawmaker said. "If we impeach Abalos, the reputation of the House will definitely shoot up. If we don't and there is the public perception that he's guilty, our reputation will further go down the drain."

He said it was very possible that the House leadership would "seize the opportunity."

Monday or Tuesday

Speaker De Venecia said he had already told his son to be ready to be invited to the House to testify on his allegations against Abalos.

De Venecia said that as Speaker, he has 10 session days to refer the impeachment complaint to the justice committee. The House has only three session days in a week.

"Ten session days means about four weeks. It means I can sit on it for that long. But I won't do that," he said.

"I will transmit it to the committee on justice on Monday or Tuesday," he added.

De Venecia, however, said that he would still consult with the House legal affairs on whether it would be fair for him to do so considering his relation with one of the witnesses against Abalos.

He said another option is for one of the Deputy Speakers to transmit the complaint to the justice committee.

"But I will be the one to tell them to do it," De Venecia said.

Makati Rep. Teodoro Locsin Jr. said the filing of the impeachment case was premature, noting that Abalos could still be summoned in the Senate and more information could still be unraveled.

Only the dumb

Locsin said he was not jumping into any conclusion just yet.

During the Senate hearing last Wednesday, former Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri said he had been offered "200" by Abalos in the course of their discussions on the NBN project.

Locsin said nobody was sure if the offer actually involved money because Neri simply recalled Abalos telling him: "*Sec, may 200 ka dito* (Secretary, you have 200 here)."

"It's insufficient to convince anybody with half a brain," Locsin told the INQUIRER. "But if you're dumb, you'll buy it right away."

The Senate inquiry was prompted by previous allegations by Joey de Venecia, whose firm also wanted to corner the NBN project, that Abalos offered him $10 million to withdraw from the project.

The senior administration lawmaker said the congressional calendar would work in favor of Abalos, who will retire in February next year.

With the impeachment case filed only the other day, he said it still had to be put on the calendar and endorsed in the committee on justice headed by Quezon City Rep. Matias Defensor.

The committee, which will determine if the complaint was sufficient in form and substance, would then have to work on a tight schedule because Congress is set to take a break from Oct. 12 to Nov. 5, according to the lawmaker.

If the complaint passes the committee's scrutiny, it would still go through deliberations at the plenary, the lawmaker said. He noted that there would be another congressional break from Dec. 20 to Jan. 20, 2008.

To offset the time constraint, proponents of the impeachment complaint should gather at least 80 signatures so it could automatically be transmitted to the Senate, he said.

Abalos digging in

Abalos is digging in, insisting on his innocence and vowing to stay on as the poll body's chief.

Asked if he was considering stepping down from his post, Abalos told reporters yesterday he wasn't considering resigning because a resignation "will be tantamount to surrendering and (to) an admission of guilt."

Reiterating he had nothing to do with the ZTE deal, Abalos said he was surprised that the senators took the statements of both Joey de Venecia and Neri as gospel truth.

"My statement was taken against someone who has admitted to having previously used drugs," Abalos added, referring to the younger De Venecia's admission that he had used illegal drugs while a college student in the United States.

Conspiracy

Abalos maintained that the accusations against him were part of a "conspiracy" between the younger De Venecia and Neri to get the NBN project cancelled altogether.

A senior House member close to De Venecia, Parañaque Rep. Eduardo Zialcita, said he was "agonizing" over whether to endorse the impeachment case.

"But there is a strong case," Zialcita said.

Davao Rep. Prospero Nograles, who is accompanying President Macapagal-Arroyo on her trip to the United States, said when he left Manila the mood in the House was "50-50" for and against the impeachment of Abalos.

"It can go either way," he told reporters.

Malacañang made it clear it would not interfere in the impeachment proceedings.

"We believe that Chairman Abalos can very well defend himself," Presidential Management Staff Chief Cerge Remonde said.

Remonde said it was improper for Ms Arroyo or the executive department to meddle in congressional processes. ***With reports from Beverly T. Natividad, Christine O. Avendaño and Michael Lim Ubac***

NBN deal straining familial ties with GMA, admits Gina de Venecia

From page A1

"It's a very difficult situation for all of us, but the truth will set us free," she said.

No calls from GMA

In the past, Ms Arroyo would ask the Speaker's wife to accompany her in foreign and local trips.

But after Joey testified in the Senate about the alleged bribery made by Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. and Mike Arroyo's alleged involvement, Gina said the President had not called her up.

"But [the President] and the Speaker spoke to each other," Gina added. She did not elaborate on what Ms Arroyo and the elder De Venecia talked about.

Gina said members of her family had also received death threats.

She said she was sad to hear about moves to impeach Abalos because she and Abalos' wife are close friends. "The events are unfolding fast. I hope God and destiny will lead us to where we should go."

Gina said that Joey asked for her advice before he made his revelations at the Senate hearing.

"I told him his testimony would affect the family, how we could be threatened and be subjected to all kinds of black propaganda and that they might even remove his father as Speaker," she said.

Joey, however, told her: "My father raised me to always tell the truth."

"And that's exactly what he did," Gina said. "What he said was what really happened. *Walang dagdag, walang bawas* (No more, no less)."

She quoted Joey as saying that he could no longer stomach what was happening and that he had to tell the truth for the sake of the Filipino people and the next generations.

Fair treatment

Gina admitted that she had appealed to both administration and opposition senators to "give Joey fair treatment in the same manner that I begged the congressmen to give the President fair treatment when she was being impeached in 2004."

She told them that "what I need to do is bring out the truth. I am not appealing to anyone to agree with what [Joey] says or to support what he is doing. Just give him fair treatment."

Asked to comment on allegations that her husband was involved in the alleged overpricing of the North Rail project, Gina said she wonders why the issue has come out now when the project has been going on for some time.

"Where did this propaganda come from? The paper [that reported that] is owned by a businessman who is the best friend of Mike Arroyo. The person whom Secretary [Romulo] Neri said was involved in ports services. Let's be vigilant and find out who these persons are and their motives," she said.

Ms De Venecia was apparently referring to Ricky Razon, whom Neri said at the Senate hearing on Wednesday allegedly threatened him with bodily harm should he try to break Razon's monopoly of Manila's ports.

Razon is chair and president of the International Container Terminal Services Inc.

Only with Gina

Mandaluyong Mayor Benhur Abalos, son of the Comelec chair, said his family would keep their friendship only with the Speaker's wife Gina, should the broadband scandal spin out of control.

"When worse comes to worst, our friendship with Manay Gina will remain," the younger Abalos told the INQUIRER, apparently to avoid discussions on continuing the friendship with the Speaker.

The Mandaluyong mayor said he and his wife had "special ties" with Gina, whom he described as "a special part of our life."

The friendship was galvanized by a shared experience of having lost a loved one.

Gina and the Speaker lost their 16-year-old daughter, Maria Kristina Casimira "KC" de Venecia, when fire struck the family residence in Makati in December 2004.

Shared experience

Four months later, Benhur and his wife lost their 19-year-old daughter, Chiara Marie Abalos, to a serious bacterial infection.

"She was with us almost every day throughout the ordeal," Benhur said of Gina. "She helped my wife recover from the tragedy, that's why we have tremendous love for her."

Only the friendship with the Speaker's wife, however, was assured of salvation amid the raging scandal over the $329-million NBN deal.

Benhur lamented that the initial accusation came—not from a political enemy—but from within the Speaker's family.

Joey had accused the elder Abalos of brokering for China's ZTE Corp.

Benhur said he was giving the Speaker the benefit of the doubt.

One man's word vs the other

"He's saying that he (elder De Venecia) has nothing to do with it," he said. "So let's just say that I'm giving him the benefit of the doubt. But it's his actuations that are more important. It's his body language that I will look at."

The younger Abalos said the Senate inquiry into the NBN controversy should not center on his father, but on "more important" issues like the involvement of the Speaker's son in a government contract.

"It's being done in aid of legislation so why don't they address the issue of the children of officials being involved in contracts with the government?" Benhur said.

So far, he said his father's accusers had yet to present solid evidence to support allegations of bribery and corruption in connection with the NBN project. "It's been one man's word against the other."

Leyte solon gets 18 years for graft

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE SANDIGANBAYAN YESTERDAY convicted reelected Leyte Rep. Eufrocino Codilla Sr. (fourth district) of two counts of graft and sentenced him up to 18 years in prison for approving the business permit of his own company when he was still the mayor of Ormoc City in 1993.

The antigraft court also perpetually disqualified Codilla from holding public office.

However, the court's Fifth Division acquitted him of two counts of violation of the code of conduct and ethical standards for public officials and employees due to insufficiency of evidence.

Codilla was allowed to post a P60,000 bail bond for his temporary liberty. The court gave him 15 days to decide whether he would file an appeal with the antigraft court or with the Supreme Court.

Court records showed that Codilla, who figured in illegal logging and possession of 'hot lumber' cases more than 10 years ago, approved for two consecutive years the application for sand and gravel permits of Codilla Enterprises, of which he was the registered proprietor.

Citing conflict of interest, the prosecution argued that Codilla must be held liable for graft as he had pecuniary interest in the business contract with the city government.

In his defense, Codilla alleged that before he approved the permits, the city's business permit and licensing office had made a query with the city legal officer about the propriety of approving a permit for his own business.

The legal officer supposedly found no reason why he could not issue permits for his firm which had been established long before he became the city mayor.

Codilla told the court that his approval of the sand and gravel permits was "merely ministerial" on his part and that he had caused no undue injury by doing so.

"From the undisputed facts, it is evident that the accused intervened or took part in his official capacity in connection with his pecuniary interest in any business, contract, or transaction, by the approval of the permit for his sand and gravel business … ," the 30-page decision read.

The court further ruled that even the subsequent appointment of his son, Eric Codilla, as manager did not take away from him such interest in the business.

"He should have been more prudent and should have kept in mind that at all times, as a public officer, his actions must be beyond reproach," said the court.

Joey Marquez appeals

By Jocelyn R. Uy

CONVICTED FORMER PARAÑAQUE MAYor Joey Marquez just won't give up the fight.

The former city official has again appealed before the Sandiganbayan to reopen the proceedings of the recently promulgated graft cases in connection to his purchase of overpriced *walis tingting* (brooms) in 1996 and 1997.

Through his counsel, Noel Malaya, Marquez said that to avoid miscarriage of justice, he must be allowed to present evidence showing that his signatures in the documents—disbursement vouchers and purchase orders—that pinned him down were forged.

Last month, the Fourth Division found Marquez and three other city officials guilty of five counts of graft and were sentenced to six to 10 years in jail for each count.

They were also ordered to pay P462,708 representing the overpriced amount in the procurement of 55,432 brooms, which the Commission on Audit found out to be bought at either P15 or P25 each.

Also, the comedian and former basketball professional has eight pending graft cases in the Second Division involving more than 8,000 broomsticks worth over P120,000, which were allegedly procured without public bidding in March 1997.

During the trial of the five cases, the comedian did not present proof that his signatures were forged because he "honestly believed all along that the prosecution has offered weak evidence against him," said Malaya.

In the same breath, Marquez also asked Fourth Division chairman Justice Gregory Ong to voluntarily inhibit himself from further handling the cases because he had supposedly lost the required "cold neutrality of an impartial judge."

In a five-page motion, Marquez cited conflict of interest as Ong's wife, Nancy supposedly has a financial interest as creditor of his wife, Vanessa, better known in the movies as Alma Moreno.

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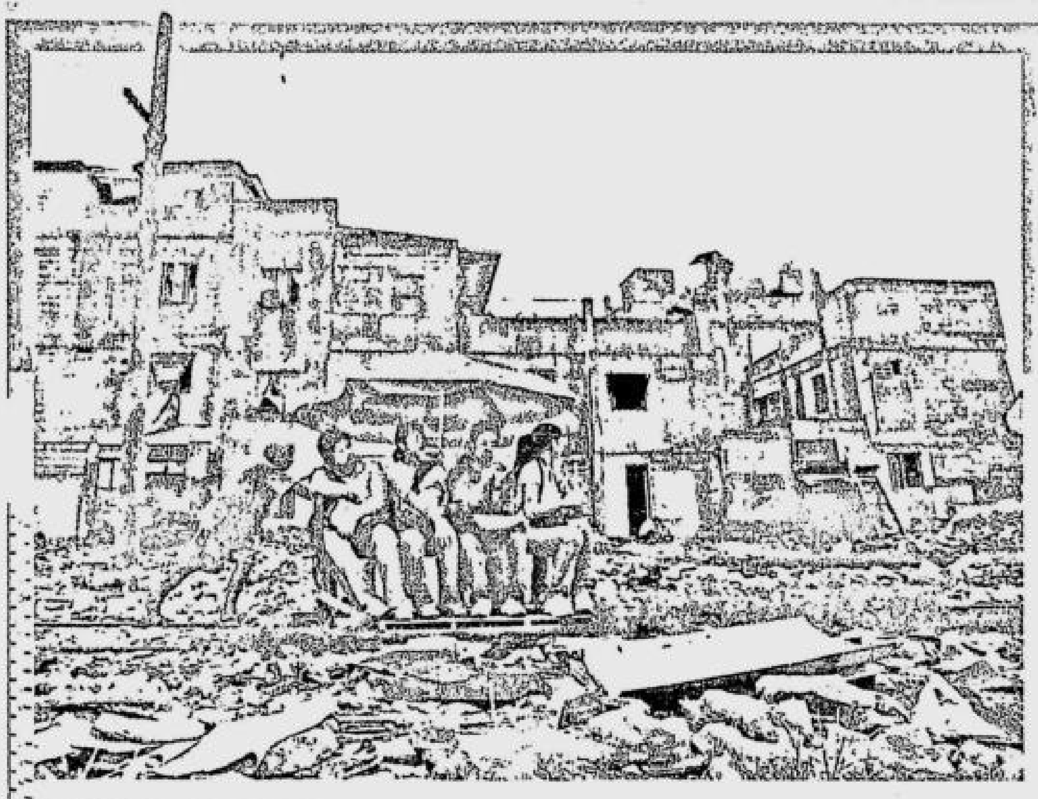

PASSING THROUGH
A trolley full of passengers travels past demolished houses along a portion of Sta. Mesa, Manila, site of the North and South Rail Linkage Project which aims to rehabilitate the old national railway system. RAFFY LERMA

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Obstruction of justice charge awaits doctor

By Tina G. Santos

THE DOCTOR WHO BROUGHT ALleged hazing victim Cris Anthony Mendez to the Veterans Memorial Medical Center will be charged with obstruction of justice.

The charge stems from his alleged refusal to heed a summons of the National Bureau of Investigation to shed light on the case.

Lawyer Romulo Asis, head of the NBI Anti-Terrorism Division which is handling the case, said charges would be filed against Dr. Francisco Cruz in the Department of Justice next week.

Cruz, an ophthalmologist at the VMMC, was still a no-show at the NBI yesterday despite the "ultimatum" given to him by the bureau.

Asis said they had to file the charges against Cruz after the doctor ignored the bureau's "third and final" subpoena.

Apart from bringing the 20-year-old graduating college student to the VMMC in Quezon City on Aug. 27, Asis said it was also Cruz who approved the release of Mendez's body to the St. Peter funeral parlor.

"He's a medical doctor. He should have known that in medico-legal cases like this, the police should have been notified," Asis said.

Asis said they were also considering filing a case against Cruz with the Professional Regulation Commission.

Meanwhile, another witness went to the NBI yesterday and confirmed that it was Cruz who gave the go-signal for the release of Mendez's body from the government hospital.

The witness, an employee at the VMMC, claimed he was among the signatories in Mendez's release papers.

UP files raps vs 12 Sigma Rhoans

If found guilty, students could face suspension or expulsion for misconduct, says legal office

By Jeannette I. Andrade

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES DILIMAN LEGAL OFFICE (UP-DLO) has filed administrative charges in the Student Disciplinary Tribunal (SDT) against 12 officers and members of the Sigma Rho fraternity for misconduct in the form of hazing and lack of respect for university rules governing students.

The charges stemmed from the death of senior public administration student Cris Anthony Mendez, allegedly a hazing victim and a recruit of the campus organization.

The charges were filed amid rumors that another fraternity neophyte died while being treated at an undisclosed hospital after sustaining traumatic injuries in the upper and lower extremities like Mendez.

UP vice chancellor for Student Affairs Elizabeth Enriquez said that if the students are found guilty, they would face penalties ranging from suspension to expulsion depending on the gravity of the offense.

Enriquez said at least two more students could be included in the charges.

Confidential

She added that documents relating to the charges were confidential and university rules prevented her from disclosing these, particularly the names of the students involved.

"The documents are out of my hands and it is up to the SDT to assess the case," she said, adding that the UP administration expected the tribunal to decide on the complaints quickly.

The three-person SDT, composed mostly of faculty members, will be chaired by lawyer Jonathan Sale. Two more members, a parent and a student, may be added "depending on the case."

Enriquez said that with the 30-day preventive suspension against officers of the Sigma Rho fraternity about to end, it was up to the SDT to decide if the suspension would be extended.

"After the preventive suspension, the students will be allowed to attend their classes," the vice chancellor said.

Rumors

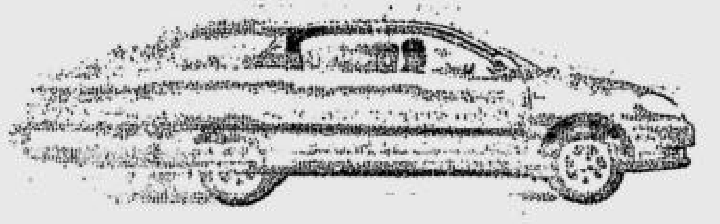
Enriquez said rumors about another alleged hazing case spread through text messages among students since Monday. Her office was still trying to verify the information. "If that is true, we also want to find out so we can take appropriate steps," she said.

But she said the information could be a "red herring" and might be an attempt to confuse and muddle the ongoing administrative proceedings and police investigations on Mendez' suspected hazing death.

It was learned that at least three "probable" names, purportedly of the latest neophyte to die from hazing, had been mentioned in certain student circles in UP.

Two names were dismissed as false, while the third was still being verified by the university registrar's office.

The college where he was supposed to belong denied they had a student by those names.



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NBI to probe doctors' involvement in organ trade

METROBRIEFS

Former Atienza consultant killed

A MAN was shot dead in front of a Quezon City bank before noon yesterday by two unidentified gunmen. Carlos Castro Jardenil, was reportedly a consultant of former Manila mayor Lito Atienza, was shot twice in the chest and once in the stomach in front of the Union Bank along Edsa near the Muñoz market. Jardenil, a resident of Navotas City, was a senior citizens affairs consultant from January to June 2006. The victim was brought to the Quezon City General Hospital where he was pronounced dead on arrival. Witnesses told police that two men on a motorcycle drove past Jardenil as he stood in front of a bank, and began firing. Robbery was ruled out as police found P10,000 in Jardenil's wallet. *Kenneth M. del Rosario*

Water cutoff in Manila

SOME areas in Binondo, Manila will have no water for eight hours starting at 10 tonight until 6 a.m. on Sunday. The service interruption is due to the interconnection of a service pipe to the existing line at Sevilla corner Jaboneros. Waterless areas are those bounded by C.M. Recto, Estero de Binondo, Muelle de Binondo, Muelle del Banco, Nacional and Barcelona. Call Maynilad Water Hotline 1626/436-2000, or text Maynilad 2898.

By Tina G. Santos

THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF Investigation is looking into the possible involvement of doctors and other medical personnel of top hospitals in the illegal sale of human organs.

Early this week, two alleged members of a syndicate were arrested for duping several people into selling their kidneys.

Without naming the hospitals, Ruel Lasala, NBI deputy director for intelligence service, said they were now conducting a further investigation to determine if doctors were involved in the anomaly.

Last Tuesday, agents of the NBI Field Operations Service led by Roland Argabioso rescued at least 11 potential kidney donors following the arrest of Ryan Aguinaldo, 26 and Jose Plandez, 35, both of San Juan, Batangas.

The suspects, who allegedly acted as "middlemen," were charged with violation of Republic Act 9208 (Anti-Trafficking of Persons Act of 2003) before the Department of Justice. No bail was recommended for their temporary release.

The bureau is now looking for the suspects' other alleged associates identified as Rico, Rachel, Gary and Sheryl, all surnamed Jusay and residents of Barangay Ticalan, San Juan.

"The law prohibits one to recruit, hire, adopt, transport, or abduct a person by means of a threat or use of force, fraud, deceit, violence, coercion or intimidation for the purpose or removal or sale of organ of a person," said the agency.

Most of the recruits were men, about 20-28 years old, from Batangas, Quezon and other neighboring provinces. Organ recipients were mainly from the Middle East, the NBI said. "At least 50 persons from the provinces have been victims of the syndicate," Lasala added.

The suspects convinced victims to sell their kidneys for huge sums of money, with promises of free meals, lodging and medicines after the operation, the NBI said.

A safehouse was provided for kidney donors who had to undergo cross-matching tests with potential recipients. Two victims said they were promised P300,000-400,000. When they received only P100,000, they decided to go to the NBI for help.

Neri trying to protect other people at Abalos' expense

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

ROMULO NERI'S ALLEGATION that Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. tried to bribe him in the $329-million deal with China's ZTE Corp. was indeed a bombshell.

But if the former chief of the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda) stops at Abalos, his testimony in the Senate probe will come to naught.

It's very clear Neri was trying to protect other people at the expense of Abalos last Wednesday.

Yes, Abalos, going by the testimony of Neri and businessman Jose "Joey" de Venecia III, was a big player in the National Broadband Network (NBN) scandal.

Surely, there are many more participants in the scandal than the Neda chief would care to name. For instance, had President Gloria realized that the deal offered by De Venecia's Amsterdam Holdings Inc. (AHI) was better than that of ZTE's, there would have been no scandal. And no Senate investigation.

The AHI's offer to install a national broadband network in the country was on a build, operate and transfer (BOT) basis. This would mean the government would not have spent money on the worthwhile project.

The question boils down to who among the President's men or relatives influenced her to choose ZTE over AHI.

Let's hope Neri gave more names during the executive session that came about when he invoked executive privilege when senators asked him whether or not the President was involved.

A source close to Neri alleged that the President forced the then Neda chief to approve the ZTE contract.

Because Neri approved the contract with a heavy heart, he tried to resign, but the President prevailed upon him and transferred him to the Commission on Higher Education (CHEd), the source said.

So, by all means, let's crucify Abalos for being caught with his hand in the ZTE cookie jar.

But let's not stop at Abalos because you and I know he's not the only one involved in the ZTE scandal.

Why don't we also look in the direction of the President's husband, Mike Arroyo, who allegedly told the young De Venecia to back off from the deal?

And what about businessman Ricky Razon, a family friend of the Arroyos, whose name was mentioned during the Senate hearing Wednesday?

***

It was unfair of Sen. Aquilino Pimentel to drag an innocent woman in the Senate investigation when the issue concerned Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos' alleged involvement in the NBN scandal.

So what if the woman is Abalos' girl friend, mistress, or whatever?

Why must her name be brought out in the investigation when she has nothing to do with the controversy?

Okay, Pimentel is faithful to his wife. He's one of a kind. Can that be said of some of his colleagues in the Senate?

When the issue of morality comes up, only a few male government officials can stand up to scrutiny.

Pimentel should have followed Jesus' admonition when His countrymen were stoning a prostitute: He who is without sin should cast the first stone.

Building inspection to be conducted in Las Piñas City, Manila

By Julie M. Aurelio and Allison W. Lopez

INSPECTION TEAMS LED BY city officials will resume their visits to factories and business-establishments in Las Piñas this week after portions of a garment factory collapsed in July.

Christian Chan of the city engineer's office said they had already checked over 20 factories along Marcos Alvarez Avenue, Talon Uno.

In Manila, the city's Building Office also called on owners of dilapidated buildings to rehabilitate or demolish structures that could be potential hazards to residents.

The advice was issued after the facade of an abandoned building owned by Philtrust bank on Cervantes Streets in Binondo crumbled the other day damaging eight vehicles.

Chan said their inspection was halted by the rains. "We will resume the check-up as ordered by the mayor."

The directive to inspect thoroughly the structures came after the mezzanine of Formostar, a garments factory in Las Piñas, partially collapsed in July, injuring nine workers.

The collapsed portion was not included in the original construction plan of the two-story building.

Las Piñas Mayor Vergel Aguilar reminded owners of over 6,000 business establishments to follow building standards and comply with requirements to avoid the revocation of their licenses.

Chan said they also inspected the Colegio de Sta. Monica along Marcos Alvarez Ave., checking the soundness of the structures and the original building plans.

Engineer Melvin Balagot, Manila building chief, said they had already sent notices to owners of dilapidated and abandoned building since it was their responsibility to check if their properties were still structurally sound.

"We have a lot of old structures in Intramuros, Sampaloc, Tondo and Pandacan." he said. A partial list showed 89 "dilapidated" buildings in the city. But Balagot stressed that not all old buildings were "condemned."

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Pope's death drawn into euthanasia row

ROME—THE DEBATE OVER THE VATICAN'S opposition to euthanasia is being played out here over an especially public and delicate case: The death of Pope John Paul II.

Over the past week, the Vatican and Lina Pavanelli, an Italian anesthesiologist, have sparred over the doctor's accusation that John Paul should have been fitted earlier with a feeding tube.

Pavanelli charged Wednesday that John Paul II violated Catholic teaching against euthanasia by refusing medical care that would have kept him alive longer—a charge immediately dismissed by Vatican officials.

In an article in the Italian journal Micromega, Pavanelli questioned why John Paul was only outfitted with a nasal feeding tube on March 30, 2005, three days before he died. She said he clearly was in need of artificial nutrition well before then.

John Paul was rushed to Rome's Gemelli Polyclinic Hospital two times in February of 2005 with breathing crises related to his Parkinson's disease; he was released for the last time March 13. He died in his Vatican apartment on April 2, from what the Vatican said was septic shock and cardiocirculatory collapse.

The Vatican announced March 30 that John Paul had been outfitted with a nasal feeding straw to improve his nutrition so he could recover strength.

However, Vatican officials said Wednesday that the tube had been inserted well before March 30 but that the procedure was only announced on that date. They disclosed the information in response to Pavanelli's charges, which they said weren't serious because she had no access to the Pontiff's medical records and based her accusations only on press releases and news reports.

At a press conference Wednesday, Pavanelli acknowledged she didn't have access to the Pontiff's medical records and acknowledged the likelihood that he may have been outfitted sooner than March 30 with a nasal feeding tube.

But she maintained her core argument that he was not given adequate nutrition soon enough, saying he actually should have been given a stomach feeding tube since he needed longer term artificial nutrition. She says she assumes John Paul's doctors offered him that option, but that he must have refused the treatment since he wasn't given it.

Catholic teaching holds that it is morally wrong to refuse "proportionate" or ordinary care, which includes water and feeding tubes; refusing such care amounts to euthanasia.

"He was fed neither at the right time, nor in the right way for the correct amount of time," Pavanelli said. That created a situation in which the Pope was too weak to fend off the urinary tract infection that led to the septic shock that ultimately killed him, she charged.

In the article, Pavanelli concludes that "when the patient knowingly refuses a lifesaving therapy, his action together with the remissive or ommissive behavior of doctors, must be considered euthanasia, or more precisely, assisted suicide."

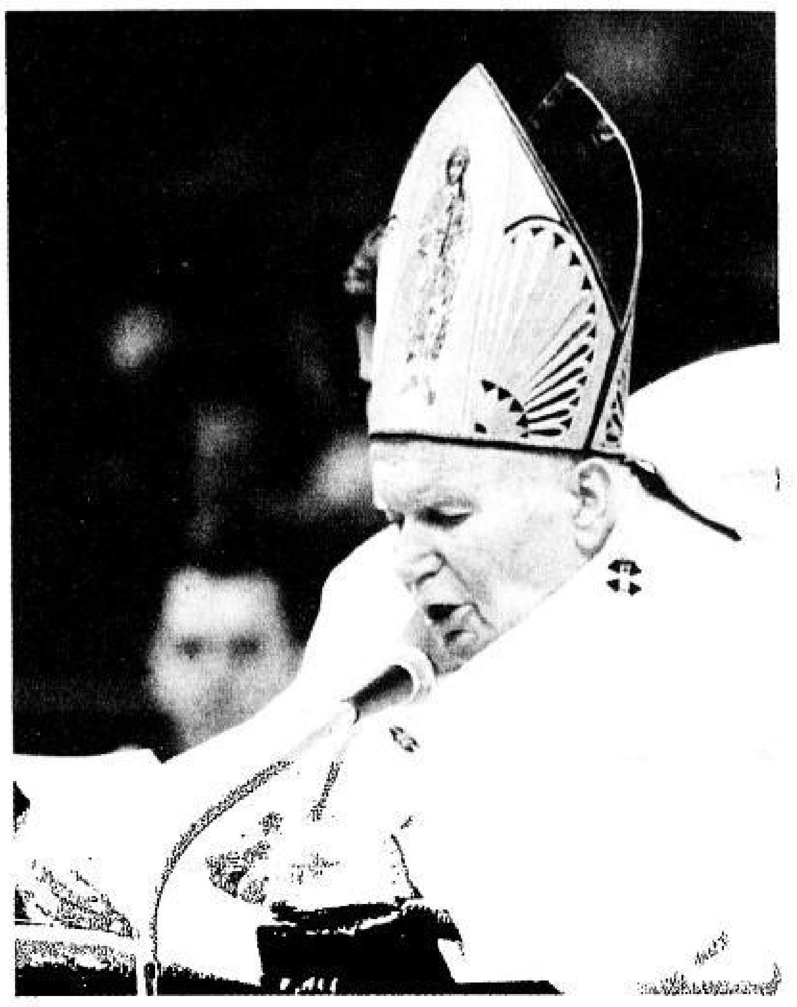
The Vatican recently repeated its position on euthanasia and feeding tubes. A document issued Sept. 14 from the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith reaffirmed that it considers the removal of feeding tubes from people in vegetative states to be an immoral act.

The Vatican distinguishes between feeding tubes, which it considers proportionate care, and "aggressive medical treatment" which can be disproportionate to any expected results or pose an excessive burden on the patient.

"In such situations, when death is clearly imminent and inevitable, one can in conscience refuse forms of treatment that would only secure a precarious and burdensome prolongation of life, so long as the normal care due to the sick person in similar cases is not interrupted," according to John Paul's 1995 encyclical "Evangelium Vitae."

Pavanelli appeared at a press conference Wednesday to defend her claims alongside the widow of Piergiorgio Welby, who has been at the center of a right-to-die campaign in this predominantly Roman Catholic country.

Welby, a paralyzed writer who suffered from muscular dystrophy, died in December after a doctor carried out his wish and disconnected his respirator. *NYT, AP*



POPE John Paul II during the celebration of a Mass marking World Peace Day on Jan. 1, 2004 at the Vatican. AFP

US redesigns citizenship questions for immigrants

PATRICK HENRY AND FRANCIS Scott Key are out, but Susan B. Anthony and Nancy Pelosi are in. The White House was cut, but New York and Sept. 11 made the list.

Federal immigration authorities on Thursday unveiled 100 new questions that immigrants will have to study in order to pass a civics test to become naturalized American citizens. The redesign of the test, the first since it was created in 1986 as a standardized examination, follows years of criticism in which conservative groups said the test was too easy and immigrant advocates said it was too hard.

The new questions did little to quell that debate among many immigrant groups, who complained the citizenship test would become even more daunting. Conservatives seemed to be more satisfied.

Bush administration officials said the new test was part of their effort to move forward on the hotly disputed issue of immigration by focusing on the assimilation of legal immigrants who have played by the rules, leaving aside the situation of some 12 million illegal immigrants here.

Several historians said the new questions successfully incorporated more ideas about the workings of American democracy and better touched upon the diversity of the groups—including women, American Indians and African Americans—who have influenced the country's history.

Would-be citizens no longer have to know who said, "Give me liberty or give me death," or who wrote "The Star-Spangled Banner." But they do have to know, "What did Susan B. Anthony do?" and who the current Speaker of the House of Representatives is.

Immigration officials said they sought to move away from civics trivia to emphasize basic concepts about the structure of government and American history and geography. In contrast to the old test, which some immigrants could pass without any study, the officials said the new one is intended to force even highly educated applicants to do some reviewing.

The $6.5-million redesign was crafted over six years of discussions with historians, immigrant organizations and liberal and conservative research groups. The questions were submitted to four months of pilot testing earlier this year with more than 6,000 immigrants who were applying for naturalization.

The agency will begin to use the revised test on Oct. 1, 2008, to leave a year for aspiring citizens to prepare and for community groups to adjust their study classes. *NYT*

WB pledges record $3.5B for poorest nations

WASHINGTON—THE WORLD Bank on Thursday pledged a record $3.5 billion to aid the world's poorest countries as it cut the interest rate on loans to big developing countries.

The roughly quarter-point lowering of loan rates was a concession by the World Bank as it stepped up efforts to get some of its bigger borrowers such as China and Brazil to contribute themselves to poverty-fighting programs around the world.

The compromise marks a major coup for the new president of the troubled bank, Robert Zoellick, a former US trade chief who took office in July after the ouster of Paul Wolfowitz over a favoritism scandal.

Known as a sharp negotiator, Zoellick, who left the Wall Street investment bank Goldman Sachs to join the World Bank, apparently managed to quickly strike a win-win deal to find more money for poor countries and ease borrowing for middle-income clients.

The bank said Thursday it was seeking to contribute more than double the $1.5 billion it had pledged two years ago to the International Development Association, its arm which provides interest-free loans and grants to the poorest countries. *AFP*

WORLDBRIEFS

US insists it is serious about warming

WASHINGTON—The United States insisted on Thursday it was serious about global warming and tried to reassure skeptics that President George W. Bush's gathering of major polluting nations would not undermine UN efforts. But some participants and environmentalists were unconvinced, voicing concern that Washington was trying to rally support for voluntary emissions cuts rather than the mandatory reductions called for in the 1997 Kyoto Protocol. "I want to stress that the United States takes climate change very seriously, for we are both a major economy and a major emitter," US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said at the start of the two-day conference. "Climate change is a global problem and we are contributing to it," Rice said. "Therefore, we are prepared to expand our leadership to address the challenge." *Reuters*

Red Cross workers held in Afghanistan

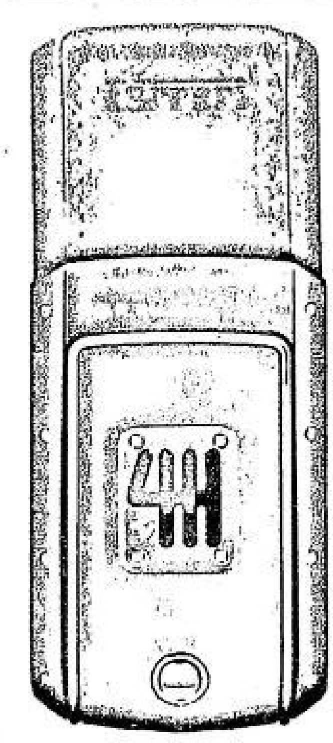
GHAZNI, Afghanistan—Negotiators were in touch Friday with the captors of four Red Cross workers, two of them foreigners, who were held in Afghanistan during a mission to free a German kidnapped by the Taliban. Contact had been made with the group that seized the men on Wednesday in the province of Wardak, about 50 km from Kabul, and military action had been ruled out to free the men, an Afghan official said. "The Red Cross office advised us not to use any military action for the safety of the kidnapped people and the issue must be solved via mediation through tribal elders," said the governor of Sayed Abad district where they were taken. *AFP*

Serb in Vukovar massacre gets 20 years

THE HAGUE—The UN war crimes court on Thursday convicted former Serb commander Mile Mrksic and sentenced him to 20 years in prison for his role in the 1991 Vukovar massacre of 194 Croats. Mrskic's subordinate officer Veselin Sljivancanin was sentenced to five years in prison for aiding and abetting torture, while a third accused, Miroslav Radic, was acquitted in the absence of evidence that he was aware of the killings. After the capture of Vukovar by the Serb-dominated Yugoslav Army thousands of Croats and other non-Serbs took refuge in the Vukovar hospital in the hope of being evacuated in the presence of international observers. On Nov. 20, 1991, Yugoslav forces evacuated the hospital and forced some 400 Croats and other non-Serbs out. Soldiers then bussed around 250 evacuees to a secluded farm a few kilometers away where at least 194 identified persons where beaten, killed and buried in mass graves. *AFP*

Bush seeks steps to curb airline delays

WASHINGTON—After the worst summer of airline delays on record, President Bush on Thursday ordered transportation officials to work with airline executives to reduce delays in the nation's overcrowded airspaces, beginning in New York. White House officials said they were considering options like capping the number of flights and allowing airports to charge higher fees to airlines for landing at the busiest times of the day. *NYT*



YOURS FOR $25,000
The new Vertu Ascent Ferrari 60 phone Nokia has started selling for about 18,000 euros ($25,400) at its stores in London, Paris, Hong Kong and Singapore.
REUTERS

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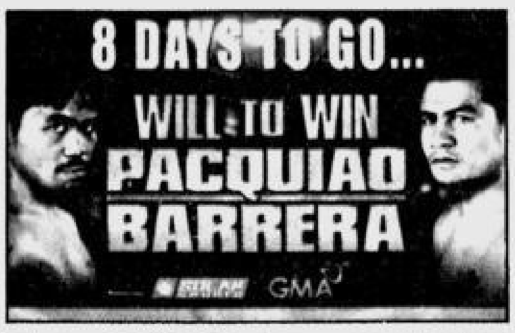
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Laylo rips GM, boosts title drive

Antonio also rises with 10th-round win over Indian grandmaster

LAYLO

Standings after 10 rounds:
7.5 points—Zhang P. (China); 7.0—**D. Laylo (RP)**, Wang H. (China), Z. Jun (China), W. Yang (China); 6.5—**R. Antonio (RP)**, Ni H.(China), Zhou J. (China), Li C. (China), A. Filippov (Uzbekistan), G. Gopal (India), S. Megaranto (Indonesia)*; 6.0—L.Q. Liem (Vietnam), E. Hossain (Bangladesh), A. Kunte (India)*; 5.5—**M. Paragua (RP)**, **W. So (RP)**, **S. Yap (RP)**, C. Sandipan (India), D. Neelotpal (India), P. Girinath (India); 5.0—**O. Dimakiling (RP)**, U. Adianto (Indonesia), N. Parimarjan (India), A. Kim Korea), H. Toufighi (Iran); 4.5—**E. Torre***, **R. Bancod (RP)**, Wang R. (China)*, A. Bagheri (Iran), E. Maghami (Iran), D.D. Trong (Vietnam), Shen Y. (China), T.H. Thong (Vietnam), Zhou W. (China)

By Roy Luarca

MANDAUE CITY—WHEN DARwin Laylo gains momentum, it's difficult to slow him down.

Having secured his grandmaster title, Laylo played with renewed passion Friday night and toppled Vietnamese GM Le Quang Liem to boost his title drive in the Sixth Asian Individual Chess Championship here.

Handling black expertly, Laylo was a pawn up and enjoying superior position when Le, a six-time Southeast Asian Games gold medalist, resigned after 42 moves of a Scandinavian Defense in the 10th round at the Cebu International Convention Center.

His sixth victory—and third against a GM—lifted Laylo to 7.0 points, just half a point behind pacesetter GM Zhang Pengxiang of China, who drew with countryman GM Ni Hua.

Grandmaster Rogelio "Joey" Antonio also boosted his campaign by trouncing Indian GM Das Neelotpal in 40 moves of a Sicilian Defense to catch up with Ni, Chinese GM Zhou Jianchao and Uzbekistan IM Anton Filippov at 6.5 points.

Zhou drew with compatriot GM Wang Hao, who shared second place with Laylo and Chinese GM Zhao Jun, who split the point with Filippov.

Still locked in a tight battle at presstime were Indonesian GM Susanto Megaranto (6.5 pts) and Indian GM Abhijit Kunte (6.0).

The top 10 players after 11 rounds of the $40,000 tournament will represent the region in the Chess World Cup slated in Khanty-Mansiyk, Russia, in November.

"*Ginanahan ako* (I'm highly motivated)," said Laylo, who bared that the lessons given him by IM Rodolfo Tan Cardoso helped him a lot. "I'll just play it safe tomorrow."

Two other Filipino bets, GM Mark Paragua and teen sensation IM Wesley So also gained ground at 5.5 points.

Paragua bested Vietnamese Fide Master Dinh Duc Trong while So downed Chinese WGM Shen Yang, the lone female entry, in 33 moves of a Bishop's Opening.

GM Eugene Torre is also trying to extract the full point against Chinese IM Wang Rui.

Filipino IM Ronald Bancod accepted Iranian GM Amir Bagheri's draw offer to land at 4.5 points, the same total of Bagheri.

Meanwhile, Fide rating administrator Casto "Toti" Abundo bared that rising Cebuano star Kim Steven Yap has gained an IM result in the tournament organized by the NCFP headed by Prospero "Butch" Pichay.

RP tandem gains share of 3rd spot

KUALA LUMPUR—THE FORMIDABLE Thai pairing of Thongchai Jaidee and Prayad Marksaeng shot a two-under-par 70 in the foursomes to take a one stroke lead halfway through the Fortis International Challenge on Friday.

But the Filipino tandem of Gerald Rosales and Tony Lascuña kept in touch with the leaders, firing a 68 to share third with the New Zealand and Netherlands pairs at 133, just a shot behind second-running South Korea and two off the Thais.

Thongchai and Prayad produced three birdies at Kota Permai Golf and Country Club for a 13-under par 131 aggregate in the qualifier for the Omega Mission Hills World Cup in China in November.

Koreans Lee Sung and Lee Seung-ho fired a sparkling 67 for second place going into today's fourball play.

Rosales and Lascuna are bunched with Kiwis Richard Lee and Stephen Scahill (67) and Dutchmen Robert-Jan Derksen and Maarten Lafeber (69).

The top-five teams in the tournament will qualify for the World Cup.

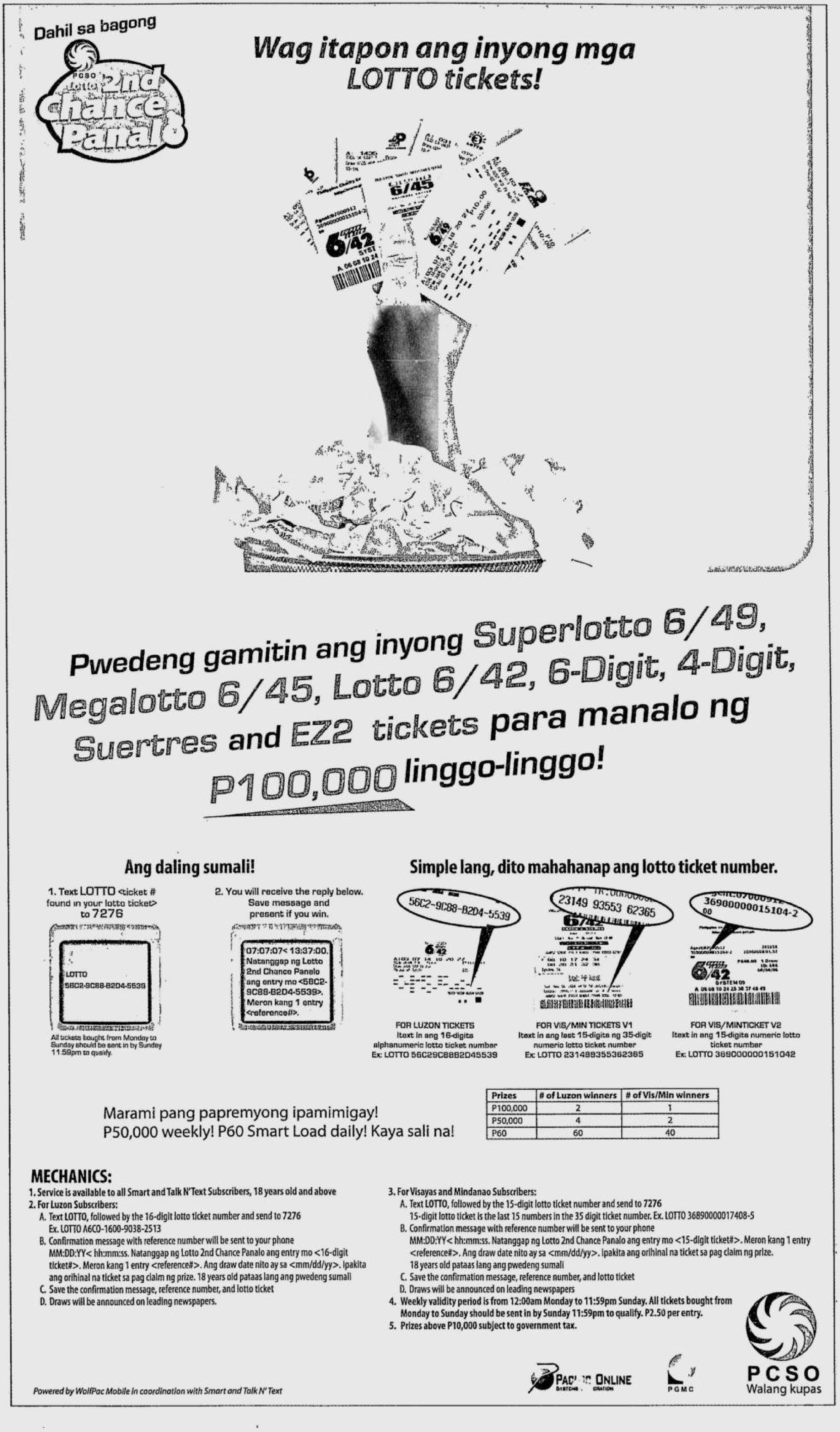
Rosales was full of praise for partner Lascuña, who peppered the pins with some delightful iron play as they reeled in five birdies to put the Philippines firmly in the hunt for a World Cup appearance.

"Tony is a good iron player and all I had to do was to hit the fairway and he would do the rest," said Rosales. "Shooting a 68 today has made it easier for us."

Rosales holed big par putts on the first and 10th holes. Lascuña, who has posted two top-three finishes on the Asian Tour in the past month, holed a 20-foot birdie on the second and then set up another birdie with a crisp approach on the sixth.

The Filipinos birdied the par five seventh and 12th easily before Lascuña nearly chipped in for eagle at the par-5 last.

The scores:
131—Thailand 61-70; 132—S. Korea 65-67; **133—Philippines 65-68**, New Zealand 66-67, Netherlands 64-69; 135—Chinese Taipei 65-70; 136—Myanmar 68-68, Malaysia 61-75; 138—Singapore 66-72; 140—Hong Kong 66-74; 141—Switzerland 67-74; 142—Pakistan 66-76; 144—Slovenia 68-76; 147—Ghana 70-77; 148—Mauritius 69-79; 150—Russia 68-82; 151—Uganda 71-80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   B. Confirmation message with reference number will be sent to your phone MM:DD:YY< hh:mm:ss. Natanggap ng Lotto 2nd Chance Panalo ang entry mo <15-digit ticket#>. Meron kang 1 entry <reference#>. Ang draw date nito ay sa <mm/dd/yy>. Ipakita ang orihinal na ticket sa pag claim ng prize. 18 years old pataas lang ang pwedeng sumali
   C. Save the confirmation message, reference number, and lotto ticket
   D. Draws will be announced on leading newspapers
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Green Archers still gung-ho despite stunning defeat

By Jasmine W. Payo

THEY SURPRISINGLY CLEARED THEIR dugout early.

The La Salle Green Archers didn't grieve for long after falling a basket short of barging to the UAAP basketball Finals.

"Mistakes are painful, but you turn mistakes into experience," said La Salle coach Franz Pumaren.

Apparently, there's still no messing up the Archers' determination even after a heartbreaking one-point loss to rival Ateneo, 65-64, in the stepladder semifinals last Thursday.

The crucial setback forged a do-or-die showdown between the blood rivals tomorrow, giving the Archers little time to lick their wounds.

And as the Archers try to figure out what went wrong, Pumaren sees no need to rebuild their faith in claiming the right to play the University of the East Warriors in a best-of-three championship series.

"What we lost was our (twice-to-beat) privilege," said Pumaren. "We left the dugout early and I think it showed that we're still confident. I think we're capable of bouncing back and redeeming ourselves."

GAME SUNDAY (*Araneta Coliseum*)
3 p.m.—Ateneo vs La Salle

Still, the Archers took note of their shortcomings, including how the Eagles clobbered them in the rebounding battle, 41-29.

"It showed the lack of depth of our team, our shallow rotation especially with (rookie center) Brian Ilad not playing (due to a suspension)," said Pumaren. "But that's not an excuse. As a coach, it's our job to utilize the materials that we have."

Even more crucial, the Archers need to check on the missed offensive opportunities and defensive lapses in the final two minutes where they threw away a six-point buffer.

Veteran guard Chris Tiu delivered the dagger shots in a 7-0 comeback that saved the Eagles' season by the slimmest possible margin.

But Pumaren expects more than just a review of their gameplan slip-ups. An attitude overhaul remains in top order in the Archers' fifth meeting with the gritty Eagles this season.

"The players tend to be complacent," the 44-year-old mentor said. "In our last 16 games, there's not a single game that everyone played well. Every game, only two or three played well. We're waiting for us to play what we're really capable of. And hopefully it will be next game. We're still confident. We're looking forward to Sunday."

Prudent Pacman hides 'bomb' on media day

By Recah Trinidad

MANNY Pacquiao works his leg muscles before sparring. MANOLO TRINIDAD

LOS ANGELES—MANNY PACQUIAO, LACKING IN GOOD DEFENSE DURING a previous session, poured it on yesterday against a couple of Mexican sparmates to get a rave response from a fullhouse gym crowd dominated by people from the media.

There was the flash of power, precision and speed that earned applause after the first three torrid rounds against Daniel Cervantes.

The crowd witnessed some of the finest moves from the RP boxing hero, popularly dubbed as the most exciting boxer in the world today, in his most impressive workout since arriving here Saturday.

But, without meaning to trick or deceive, Pacquiao did not unwrap the killer punch which he worked to perfection on Monday during a detailed, non-stop work with the punch mitts.

"Manny today? He was just playing out there," trainer Freddie Roach said.

It hardly looked that way because Pacquiao was actually quite businesslike in the first three rounds, and turned a bit cozy only when he next faced David Rodela, who was already with him in the Cebu training camp.

Pacquiao had the luxury of doing the Ali shuffle in the closing portion of the six-round drill when he would opt to drop his guard and openly pull his punches.

The truth is that Pacquiao had been given strict orders not to bring out a very special shot, which could be likened to a mini-bomb with its jolting sharpness and impact, during yesterday's media day at the Wild Card gym.

"*Hindi talaga pinagamit* (He was not allowed to use it)," explained one trusted Team Pacquiao staffer who requested anonymity.

The order supposedly came from Roach himself. The reason cited was the presence of more than enough Mexicans in the crowd.

Practically everybody close to the ring had something in hand to record the action. But, before the session could start, security officer Rob Peterson barked out an order: No videos, no flashbulbs.

Pacquiao did not disappoint the media men as he readily banged it up with Cervantes, who owns a neat 10-0 record.

Cervantes would have some great moments in the first three minutes as he caught Pacquiao with a few uppercuts and landed neat shots to the head.

It would, however, be an altogether different story when Pacquiao decided to pour it on starting in the second round. He feinted with a right, then buried a left straight to the midsection that stalled Cervantes at midring.

Pacquiao pressed harder and closed the second round with a blazing display of big punches that could have decked any fighter not wearing the thick head leather gear.

The bell rang and the crowd roared.

Little did they know that Pacquiao had hidden the "bomb" which he plans to explode to cover all possible Marco Antonio Barrera escape routes in Las Vegas on Oct. 6.

SPORTSWATCH

Hapee taps Norwood in PBL rookie draft

By Jasmine W. Payo

AS EXPECTED, FIL-AMERICAN GABE Norwood emerged as the top pick in the PBL entry draft yesterday.

Although absent, the mainstay of the Philippine team to the last Fiba Asia men's championship became the first choice of Hapee Toothpaste despite the uncertainty of the 6-foot-5 guard's return to the country.

Hapee took the gamble, citing ongoing talks with Norwood's agent Jim Naughton.

"I already talked to his manager and he (Naughton) promised to settle pending commitments of Gabe in the US before coming back to the country; then we'll talk about the offer," Hapee team manager Bernard Yang said after the draft held at the penthouse of the Philippine Stock Exchange in Pasig City.

Jervy Cruz, the 6-foot-5 star center of University of Santo Tomas, was the second choice, while FEU's Marnel Baracel was picked fourth by the Lina Group of Companies, which acquired the Welbest franchise.

Toyota Balintawak drafted JRU's James Ryan Sena third, along with Fil-Am Richard Cole and JRU standouts Marvin Hayes and John Wilson in the succeeding rounds.

Pharex made former FEU forward Alfred Gerilla its sixth pick, while Bacchus Energy Drink selected University of the East guard James Martinez at seventh.

Harbour Centre, the reigning three-time champion, earned supplemental picks for loaning its core to the national amateur team and chose Biola University's Solomon Mercado and FEU's Benedict Fernandez.

San Miguel-Magnolia acquired Jefemil Khalili, Fil-Am Kevin Dalafu and University of the Philippines' Magi Sison.

Pharex tabbed Pepito Daryl, Jeff de Guzman and Kevyn White in the next rounds, while San Beda's John Hermida, Melchor Gile and Michael Kong went to Hapee.

Challengers chase Coseteng

JODY COSETENG WILL HAVE HIS HANDS full against three challengers when the 2007 Philippine Touring Car Championship holds its fifth and penultimate leg tomorrow at the Subic International Raceway

Louis and Kookie Ramirez of Petron-SRA and Uly Maningding of Explorer Motorsports will battle Coseteng, who is eyeing his 11th straight crown, in Group 1.

Maningding earlier prevented a season sweep for Coseteng when he topped Round 8 and became the first driver to beat the defending champion this season.

Alvin Santos hopes to extend his winning streak to 10 when he guns for his fifth straight sweep in the Group 3 division.

Fast Track races tomorrow

THE COUNTRY'S TOP RIDERS AS WELL as new motocross enthusiasts gear up for Round Two of On Any Sunday MX Series tomorrow at the Fast Track circuit in Taguig.

Round Three is set next Sunday, Oct. 7.

Participants must have NAMSSA licenses and must have their own racing number on their machines.

Rookie riders can vie in the Enduro Class, Beginner Production and the Underbone classes while kids may join the Junior 85, Junior 65 and Peewee 50 races.

Big Makati stagfest today

QUALITY MATCHES GET GOING AT THE Makati Coliseum today via the WTJ Altuz 5-Stag Derby.

Backed by sponsors B-Meg Derby Ace and Gran Matador, the stagfest will be spiced up by more than 70 encounters. A guaranteed prize of P500,000 is at stake, said host Ram Lopez, who will be supported by WTJ Sports and Amusement Corp.

Meanwhile, the PCAP 5-stag derby series unfolds on Monday followed by the Gold Quest Champions 5-stag derby on Oct. 6 with Osang dela Cruz as host.

SJC cockers derby unfolds

MEMBERS OF THE SJC COCKERS CLUB and guest participants collide today in another 5-stag derby at the San Juan Coliseum with Sagupaan Complexor 3000 as chief backer.

The third of six stagfests lined up by the group will feature some 70 fights.

Loule Cua, Osang dela Cruz and Jon Elasique ruled the first leg last Sept. 8 while Max Roxas of Tarlac emerged solo champion in the second leg last Sept. 17.

KATHLEEN Alora shows the bronze medal she won in the Doha Asiad.

OLYMPIC QUALIFIER

Alora kicks off RP jins' campaign

By Marc Anthony Reyes

MANCHESTER, ENGLAND—THE Spaniard world champion is in her bracket, but Kathleen Eunice Alora is taking it one match at a time.

Alora, 19, tries to draw first blood for the Philippine taekwondo team in the World Championships here when she fights an opponent from Sweden Friday in the women's -49kg division of the event serving as a gateway to the Beijing Olympics next year.

Hanna Zajc will be the first assignment for the reigning Southeast Asian Games champion and Asian Games bronze medal winner. If she wins, her next rival will be Pakistan's Hran Bang.

If she keeps on winning, Alora is sure to meet two-time World champion Brigit Yague of Spain in the crucial stages.

National coach Roberto "Kitoy" Cruz, a former Olympian and six-time SEAG champion and three-time World Championships bronze winner said he expected the draw to be tough since all the crack fighters are entered in the meet.

Alora, a La Salle business studies senior, tipped the scale well within the limit Thursday afternoon after the drawing of lots at the Midland Hotel, the oldest and grandest hotel in this city.

There are 40 competitors in Alora's division, which means she has to win at least four matches to get to the medal round and, hopefully, a ticket to Beijing.

Doha Asian Games champs and Athens Olympics veterans Thsomlee Go and Mary Antoinette Rivero, and 2006 Asian Championships silver medalist Alexander Briones also caught a glimpse of the opposition in their own brackets.

The 26-year-old Go, the SEAG titlist, will start his quest on Saturday against Akram Ahmed Ahmed Abdul of Yemen in the first round of the men's -58kg class.

Also seeing action on Saturday is Rivero, who has Ivona Banc of Bosnia and Herzegovina as her first assignment in the women's -67kg.

The 19-year-old Rivero, the 2001 US Open champion and 2003 SEAG gold medalist at age 15, is in a 28-player group.

Briones will face a Central African foe Sunday in the men's -80kg division, which has drawn a total of 42 fighters.

Milo race goes to CdO

THE 31ST NATIONAL MILO MARAthon begins its Northern Mindanao run when it stages the 18th qualifying run in Cagayan de Oro City tomorrow.

The City of Golden Friendship will host about 10,000 runners in the 21K qualifying race, 5K fun run and 3K kiddie event.

Cash prizes amounting to P159,000 will be given out as well as trophies and medals to the top 10 finishers.

The top three 21K finishers in the men's and women's divisions likewise get tickets to the 42K national finals slated Nov. 18 in Manila. A cash purse of P75,000 awaits the men's and women's winners in the Milo Marathon finals.

After the Cagayan de Oro leg, the series goes to Iligan City on Oct. 7 before capping the Northern Mindanao leg in Butuan on Oct. 14.

Milo AVP for Sports Pat Goc-ong is advising all runners to be at the starting area at least one hour before the races start for check-in and briefing.

LADIES RULE: The winners of yesterday's Senior Masters event of the 11th Sletba Open pose with their trophies at the Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall Bowling Center in Cainta. From left, second placer Lina Almajose of Sletba, champion Nelia Santos of the Pasig Bowling Association and third placer Fred Martinez, also of Sletba. The event ends tomorrow.

Beermen, Phone Pals favorites, says PBA board

By Musong R. Castillo

MACAU—THE PHILIPPINE BASKETball Association board of governors ended their preseason meeting in this gambling haven satisfied at having ticked off most of the items on their to-do list and excited enough to start rating the teams before the start of the 33rd season.

"There were some items that were not decided upon," said chair Tony Chua of Red Bull. "But there were a lot of things that we were able to finish and this means that the PBA is headed the right direction."

If there was one thing that galvanized a board that always makes it a point to come up with a unanimous vote on even the most polarizing issues, it was the list of favorites in the coming season. And strangely enough, Barangay Ginebra and Alaska—the champion teams from the previous season—were not on it.

"I like that (being the underdog)," said Kings governor Robert Non at the airport, just as the entourage that went here for a series of meetings prepared to leave for home. "At least the pressure to deliver will not be on us. It's different playing pressure-free."

"Let's face it, San Miguel and Talk 'N Text are truly loaded teams," said Alaska's Joaqui Trillo.

The Beermen and the Air21 Express open up hostilities in the only game scheduled on that Sunday following techno-inspired opening rites at 4:30 p.m.

Asuncion siblings now rank No. 23, boost Olympic berth bid

By June Navarro

KENNIE AND KENNEVIC ASUNcion boosted their chances of clinching slots in next year's Beijing Olympics after coming up with noteworthy performances in two recent overseas tournaments.

From No. 24, the country's top mixed doubles bet moved a notch higher in the World Badminton Federation rankings following a strong semifinal finish in the United States Open Grand Prix and a round-of-32 effort in the Yonex Japan Open Super Series.

"It's an improvement," said Nelson Asuncion, father and coach of the Asuncion siblings. "We'll need all the points we could get to make it to the Olympics."

Considered the best local hopes in the Southeast Asian Games, Asian Games and the Olympics, the Asuncions need to barge into the top 16 to automatically secure a seat in the Beijing Games.

If the tandem fails to meet the target, the Asuncions should land no less than a spot in the top 20 to gain a wild-card entry.

"If we can go as far as the top 16, we'll be safe," said Kennie. "But a spot in the top 20 would also give us a strong chance to make it to Beijing. At No. 23, we're slowly closing in on our target."

The Asuncions went as high as No. 11 in the middle of last year after a pair of victories in Australia and New Zealand and a runner-up finish in the 2006 RP Open. But the siblings skidded from the top 20 after missing several events.

After a brief respite, the Asuncions will try to earn more points in a tournament in Macau on Oct. 2, then proceed to Denmark three weeks later before going to France for an event slated Oct. 30-Nov. 4.

Bata, Django whitewash W. Cup foes

EFREN "BATA" REYES AND FRANCISCO "DJANGO" BUSTAmante pulled off the first whitewash of the tournament Thursday to underscore their worth as defending champions in the 2007 PartyPoker.net World Cup of Pool at the Outland Nightclub in Rotterdram, the Netherlands.

REYES

BUSTAMANTE

The top-rated Filipinos crushed Philipp Stojanovic and Ivica Putnik of Croatia, 8-0, and became the first team to reach the quarterfinals slated Saturday.

The impressive win created as much ripple as Japan's upset of the host country's bets and the tightrope act of the American combination of Rodney Morris and Corey Deuel.

Satoshi Kawabata and Naoyuki Oi put up a tremendous performance by beating Netherlands A's Niels Feijen and Nick van den Berg, 8-7, and the Japanese could face the Filipinos in the semifinals set Sunday.

The Americans, seeded second as last year's losing finalists, proved luckier than the home stars as they slipped past Tony Drago and Alex Borg of Malta by the same 8-7 cliffhanger.

In other matches, Switzerland (Marco Tschudi and Dimitri Jungo) booted out Hungary, 8-5; Finland (Mika Immonen and Markus Juva) ousted Qatar, 8-5; and England (Imran Majid and Daryl Peach) slipped past Poland, 8-6.

Reyes and Bustamante will next face the winner of the France-China duel in the quarterfinals. Stephan Cohen and Vincent Facquet banner France while the Chinese bets are Li Hewen and Fu Jianbo.

Japan will take on the winner of the clash between Singapore (Chan Keng Kwang and Toh Lian Han) and Austria (Martin Kempter and Albin Ouschan).

Friday's other round-of-32 matches pit Canada against Korea, Austria against Singapore, Switzerland against US, Finland against England and Belgium against Taiwan.

The scotch doubles event offers a champion's purse of $60,000.

The third-ranked Taiwanese are bannered by former world 9-ball champion Wu Chia-ching and Yang Ching-shun.

Marlon Bernardino, Contributor

Korean teenagers clinch Fed League title for Northwoods

KOREAN TEENERS CHOI Hyun-jin and Choi Min-sik produced an eagle in the greensome format and carried Royal Northwoods to victory in its playoff with Eastridge for the 2007 Federation Golf League championship recently.

The 17-year-old Sik hit the green of Northwoods' par-5 first hole with a solid 3-wood second shot from 240 yards then Jin clinched it for the home team by sinking a putt from 30 feet that broke the hearts of the Eastridge players.

Eastridge bet Nick Kim had left his own playover attempt from 205 yards short of the green but partner Rading Decepeda chipped to the fringe to make things easy for their Northwoods rivals.

Both teams had to return to the course two days after their weekend title showdown, which ended in a tie in regulation play but couldn't be continued due to darkness.

Eastridge prevailed at home, 3-2, but Northwoods battled back with its own 3-2 victory to force the extension.

It took less than 20 minutes for Northwoods to wrap it up in the playoff as the Chois displayed poise under pressure.

Northwoods, which also won the Fed League in 2004, became only the third team in the league after Riviera and Forest Hills to win two titles. Eastridge posted its best finish so far.

"We worked really hard for this," said Northwoods captain Rodel Mangulabnan. "I think we were able to field the right combinations in crucial matches."

The awarding ceremonies of the tourney sponsored by Immuvit/Pascual Laboratories and Spa 6750 will be held on Oct. 2 at Manila Golf Club.

Northwoods played minus its top man, Omar Dungca, who was in the United States playing in another tournament.

Northwoods beat Valley in the quarterfinals and reached the finals by turning back Alabang. Eastridge first downed Canlubang before ousting eliminations topnotcher Forest Hills in the Final Four series.

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DY Int'l Bldg., 1650 San Marcelino
cor. General Malvar St., Malate, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/ Citizenship	Position
CASPO INCORPORATED 20/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Yee Shuenn Lok Malaysian	IT Technician
SAVEKO CORP. 1012 Metropolitan Ave. cor. Sacred St., San Antonio Village, Makati City	Konosuke Kuwabara Japanese	General Manager
RP-SAKURA INTERNATIONAL CORP. Suite 509 FEA Bldg. No. 305-306 Dasmarinas St., Binondo, Manila	Chenguang Guo Chinese	Director
CHINA NICKEL MINING PHILIPPINES CORPORATION Suite 212 State Condo. IV Bldg., Ortigas Ave., Greenhills, San Juan City	Yue He Chinese	Coordinator Staff
MERLIN INFORMATION SYSTEMS PHILIPPINES INC. 4/F Ortigas Bldg., Ortigas Ave., cor. Meralco Ave., Pasig City	Sung Min Hwang Korean	1st Level Technical Multi-Lingual Helpdesk Agent
OVERSEA MAPLE ONLINE CORPORATION Unit 704-705 Jocfer Bldg., Commonwealth Ave., Quezon City	Kyuntak Kim Korean	Marketing Officer
EIB REALTY DEVELOPERS, INC. 19/F Export Bank Plaza, Export Bank Drive. cor. Chino Roces Ave., Makati City	Spencer Gary Roberts British	Consultant
NEW HONG KONG GOLDEN PAVILLION RESTAURANT, INC. G/F The Heritage Hotel, Roxas Blvd. cor. EDSA, Pasay City	Chuen Ching Lau Chinese	Executive Chef
TOUR K. TAMOA PHILS. CORPORATION Unit 811 Monaco Garden Tower, Villa Barbara St., Pasay City	Seokhoon Kang Korean	General Manager
ANYLO CORPORATION 1138 Chino Roces St. cor. Kamagong St., San Antonio Vill., Makati City	Joo Yun Lee (w/o OH) Korean	Manager
CASPO INCORPORATED 20/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Chee Jen Chua Malaysian	Accounts Officer
CASPO INCORPORATED 20/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Wei Kang Liew Malaysian	IT Technician
CASPO INCORPORATED 20/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Chi Toan Lam Vietnamese	Customer Service Representative
CASPO INCORPORATED 20/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Teck Ming Tan Malaysian	Operation Analyst
CASPO INCORPORATED 20/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Randy Choong Wei Mah Malaysian	IT Technician
KEPCO ILIJAN CORPORATION 18/F Citibank Tower, 8741 Paseo de Roxas, Salcedo Village, Makati City	Bin Sik Jin Korean	Manager, Mechanical Department
VERIZON COMMUNICATIONS PHILIPPINES, INC. 17th Flr. The Enterprise Center, Tower 2, 6766 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Kit Wayne Schenkel American	Manager
CONVERGYS PHILS. SERVICES CORP. 24/F Robinsons Equitable Tower, 4 ADB Ave. cor. Poveda St., Ortigas Ctr., Pasig City	Bok Mi Kim Korean	Customer Care Representative (CCR)
BOSTON ACADEMY LEARNING SCHOOL INC. 3/F Palace Hotel 5011, P. Burgos St., Poblacion, Makati City	Soonju Kwak (w/o Ahn) Korean	Systems Analyst
BOSTON ACADEMY LEARNING SCHOOL INC. 3/F Palace Hotel 5011, P. Burgos St., Poblacion, Makati City	Bonggu Kong Korean	General Manager
MARSHALL TECHNOLOGIES, INC. 2/F Unit A, Westgate Tower, Investment Drive, Madrigal Business Park, Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Jeongheon Song Korean	Consultant
GAMINGWEB, INC. 17/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, Makati City	Michael Hing Kong Ting Malaysian	Mandarin/Cantonese Speaking-Assistant Manager(Operations)-Unit 1
GAMINGWEB, INC. 17/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, Makati City	Bon Kiat Tan Malaysian	Mandarin/Cantonese Speaking Executive (Operations) - Unit 2
COPY PRNT PLUS, INC. 101 Kalayaan Ave., Quezon City	Chang-Nam Moon Korean	General Manager
COPY PRNT PLUS, INC. 101 Kalayaan Ave., Quezon City	Kyoung Sook Kim (w/o KIM) Korean	Supervisor
GAMINGWEB, INC. 17/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, Makati City	Lau Kung Chai Malaysian	Mandarin/Cantonese Speaking Executive (Operations) - Unit 1
GAMINGWEB, INC. 17/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, Makati City	Tan Charng Heng Malaysian	Sports-book Operations Officer (Mandarin/Cantonese Speaking) - Unit 2
GAMINGWEB, INC. 17/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, Makati City	Wong King Jung Malaysian	Mandarin/Cantonese Speaking-Executive (Operations)-Unit 1
GAMINGWEB, INC. 17/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, Makati City	Justin Hee Liang Foo Singaporean	Bi-lingual Speaking Project Manager - Unit 3
GAMINGWEB, INC. 17/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, Makati City	Kwang Sze Sim Malaysian	Mandarin/Cantonese Speaking-Executive (Operations)-Unit 1
GAMINGWEB, INC. 17/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, Makati City	Chia Tze Weng Malaysian	Mandarin/Cantonese Speaking-Executive (Operations)-Unit 1
GAMINGWEB, INC. 17/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, Makati City	Maruit Chaiyarnoan Thai	Bi-lingual Speaking Regional, IT Supervisor
MUSE DE ASIA ENTERTAINMENT INC. 5779 Zobel Roxas St., Palanan, Makati City	Kanji Inoue Japanese	Administrative Manager
GAMINGWEB, INC. 17/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, Makati City	Tan Jun Hong Malaysian	Mandarin/Cantonese Speaking-Executive (Operations)-Unit 1
BAM DOGGIE BI RESTAURANT 1808 Ma. Orosa St., Malate, Manila	Young Soon Chang Korean	Operation Manager
GAMINGWEB, INC. 17/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, Makati City	Sim Khang Shen Malaysian	Mandarin/Cantonese Speaking-Executive (Operations) - Unit 1
GAMINGWEB, INC. 17/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, Makati City	Eddy Allan Law Sze Chai Malaysian	Mandarin/Cantonese Speaking - Executive (Operations) Unit 1
GAMINGWEB, INC. 17/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, Makati City	Wijit Sattayapom Thai	Regional Infrastructure Manager
GAMINGWEB, INC. 17/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, Makati City	Saw Chin Wong Malaysian	Bi-lingual Speaking Regional Finance Controller
GAMINGWEB, INC. 17/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, Makati City.	Chee Keong Ng Malaysian	Sports-book Operations Officer (Mandarin/Cantonese Speaking) - Unit 2
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DAVID VILLE ACADEMY, INCORPORATED Brgy. San Isidro, Paranaque City	Soo Won Hwang Korean	Director/Interim President
DAVID VILLE ACADEMY, INCORPORATED Brgy. San Isidro, Paranaque City	Mi Ja Kim (w/o Yang) Korean	Treasurer/Director
ISEWAY MOTORS PHIL., INC. 349 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Wai Kit Lam Chinese	General Manager
BOSTON ACADEMY LEARNING SCHOOL INC. 3/F Palace Hotel 5001, P. Burgos St., Poblacion, Makati City	Minkyung Choi Korean	President
MUSE DE ASIA ENTERTAINMENT INC. 5779 Zobel Roxas St., Palanan, Makati City	Youngdae Gwon Korean	Assistant Administrative Manager

If you have any information/objection to the above mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

RAYMUNDO G. AGRAVANTE
OIC-Regional Director

(PDI - Sept. 29, 2007)

PRESIDENTS CUP

US golfers surge ahead

MONTREAL—THE AMERICANS GOT off to a near-perfect start Thursday in the Presidents Cup, getting superb play from veterans and rookies alike in winning 5 1/2 points out of the six alternate-shot matches at Royal Montreal.

And if not for US captain Jack Nicklaus, it might have been worse.

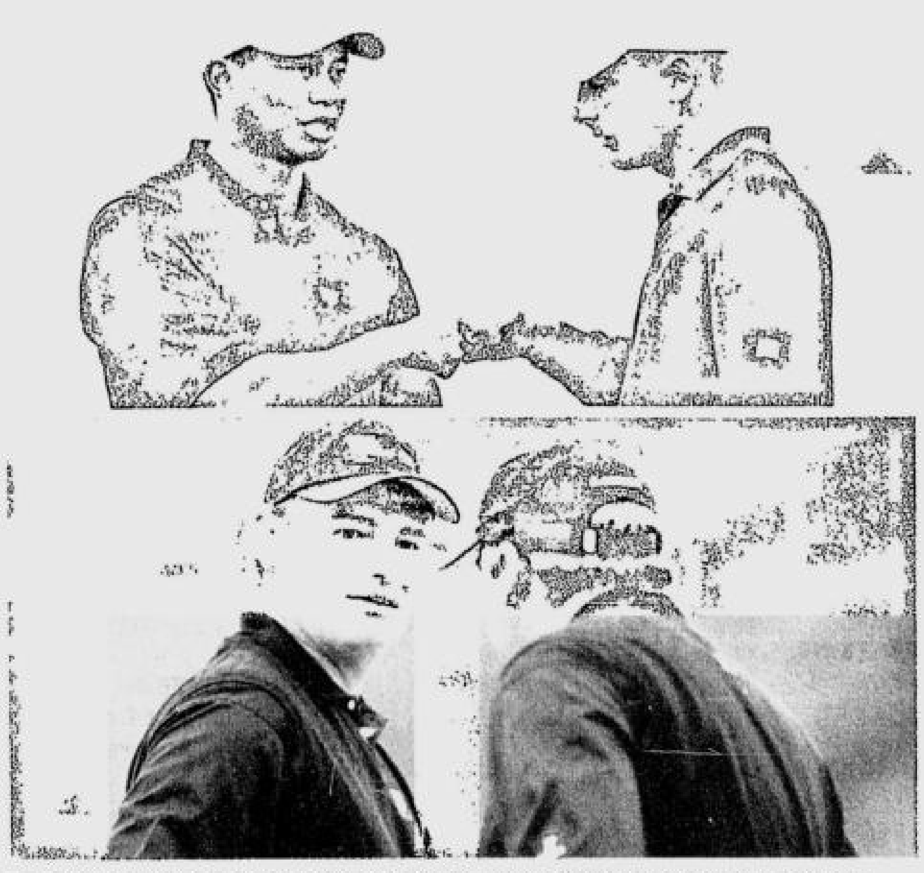
Despite a leaderboard covered with American red numbers, perhaps the most poignant moment of a gray afternoon was Nicklaus instructing Phil Mickelson and Woody Austin to concede a 3 1/2-foot par putt on the 18th hole that assured Mike Weir of Canada and his International team its only point of the opening session.

In a tense battle with only six holes halved, the match was all square going to the 18th when both sides missed the green. Mickelson blasted out to 12 feet, while Weir chipped to 3 1/2 feet above the hole. Austin made the par putt, and before Vijay Singh spotted his ball, the match was conceded.

"Captain Nicklaus was right. It was the right thing to do," Mickelson said.

Questioned about the call during a news conference, Nicklaus would not admit to making the decision and said he had left it up to Mickelson and Austin.

The US generosity was directed at Canada's Weir, who had hit the approach to leave partner Singh a 3 1/2-foot attempt.



TIGER Woods (top photo, left) and Charles Howell III led an American charge that left the Internationals, led by Ernie Els (left, bottom photo) and Angel Cabrera, scrambling at its wake. REUTERS

"I think Phil and Woody made the right decision and they both felt Mike had played a good match and Mike being a Canadian and being here that it was the right thing," Nicklaus said.

The matches began 30 minutes late because of a downpour on the Ile Bizard, and once they began, the Americans wasted no time taking control. Steve Stricker, returning to the Presidents Cup after an 11-year absence, joined with rookie Hunter Mahan for a 3-and-2 victory over the Australian pair of Adam Scott and Geoff Ogilvy.

Tiger Woods and Charles Howell III picked up a 3-and-1 victory over KJ Choi and Nick O'Hern.

It was the biggest blowout in the opening session since the Americans won 5-0 in 2000.

Rory Sabbatini and Trevor Immelman, who lost an early 2-up lead, were all square playing the 18th when Sabbatini hooked his tee shot into the water, leading to a bogey. Zach Johnson played his tee shot well to the right, Stewart Cink found a greenside bunker, and Johnson secured the match with a bunker shot so close it was conceded to par.

Ernie Els and Angel Cabrera were run over by Jim Furyk and David Toms, who raced out to a 3-up lead with five holes remaining.

Then there was Retief Goosen and Stuart Appleby, also tried to squeeze out a half-point with a win on the 18th hole. Appleby, however, pulled his approach so badly and Goosen's best option was to take a penalty stroke and hit their third shot over a row of corporate chalets. Lucas Glover and Scott Verplank made a par from the bunker for a 2-up win. *AP*

Archers target juniors crown

GAMES TODAY (Ninoy Aquino Stadium)
2 p.m.—Ateneo vs Univ. of the Phils. (Women)
4 p.m.—La Salle vs Ateneo (Juniors)

ATENEO'S LIFE CONTINUES TO hang in the balance, even in the juniors division of the UAAP basketball tournament.

La Salle Zobel tries to reassume domination of the high school ranks when it shoots for the title against Ateneo in Game 2 of the best-of-three finals at the Ninoy Aquino stadium today.

"We were never given a chance to defend our championship last year," said La Salle coach Boris Aldeguer. "But that's life, we have to move on. We have a chance to win again, that's what matters most."

The Junior Archers, the 2005 champions, found themselves grounded as La Salle served a one-year suspension last year due to an eligibility infraction.

Game 2 of the best-of-three title series between the Junior Archers and defending champion Blue Eaglets will start at 4 p.m. at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

"We cannot put our guard down, we don't know who's going to deliver," said Aldeguer.

The women's division is a different story, though, as the Lady Eagles provide the Katipunan-based school with its best chance of a crown.

The Lady Eagles try to finish off the Lady Maroons in Game 2 of their own best-of-three affair at 2 p.m.

The Junior Archers turned back the Eaglets in the series opener, 76-74, last Saturday. *Jasmine W. Payo*

Yankees keep AL East title hopes afloat

ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA—PHIL Hughes allowed four hits in seven innings and Jose Molina delivered a two-run single to lead the New York Yankees over the Tampa Bay Devil Rays 3-1 in the American League on Thursday.

Victory kept alive Yankees' hopes for the AL East title, with a place in the playoffs already assured.

Joba Chamberlain pitched on consecutive days for the first time, striking out BJ Upton to escape a jam with runners at first and second in the eighth inning. Jose Veras pitched the ninth, completing a six-hitter for his second career save.

New York went ahead in the seventh against Jon Switzer (0-2). Shelly Duncan singled and Robinson Cano doubled before Molina's grounder through a drawn-in infield put New York ahead 3-1. Twins 5, Red Sox 4

In Boston, Michael Cuddyer and Garrett Jones of Minnesota homered off 20-game winner Josh Beckett in his last start before the playoffs, preventing the Red Sox from closing in on the AL East title.

Boston has already clinched a playoff berth, but it needs two more wins—or Yankees losses—to clinch its first AL East title since 1995. *AP*

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Even in Milo hoops tilt, it's still Ateneo-La Salle

La Salle Green Hills and Ateneo will dispute the 2007 Milo-Best Center SBP-Passerelle tournament finals tomorrow at the Jacinto Tiu court of the Xavier Sports Complex.

La Salle will defend its SBP title against Ateneo in a rematch of last year's title showdown. Championship matches begin at 9 a.m.

The LSGH cagers reached the finals after ousting San Beda College, 52-42, in the semifinals while the Blue Eaglets advanced by conquering Xavier School, 68-43.

Before that La Salle-Ateneo tiff, Xavier and Ateneo will dispute the Passerelle title.

Xavier, which earlier ousted 2006 winner San Beda College-A, made the finals after a 58-50 semifinal victory over last year's runner-up, De La Salle Zobel.

Ateneo earned the right to face Xavier when it outclassed archrival LSGH, 57-51.

Games for third place start at 8 a.m. at the practice court with La Salle squads Green Hills and Zobel colliding in the Passerelle division, to be followed by the SBC-Xavier SBP encounter.

The Best Center SBP-Passerelle is a nationwide youth league featuring the country's top elementary and high school teams.

JOSEPH Tanhueco (left) drives past Jose Oppus in a miniaturized version of the Atene-La Salle rivalry.

PSA, Brickroad to raise funds for RP Olympians

THE PHILIPPINE SPORTSWRITERS ASSOciation (PSA) and Brickroad Gym and Aspen Spa on Thursday signed an agreement for a joint venture aimed at raising financial support for Filipino athletes competing in next year's Beijing Olympics.

Initial target of the two groups is to raise at least P2 million which will be turned over to the Philippine Olympic Committee (POC) next year to augment funds for the participation of the country's Olympians.

Kristine Mae Robles, General Manager of Brickroad Gym and Aspen Spa, initiated the fund raiser for the country's Olympians and promised to tap the wide connections of the Sta. Lucia Group of Companies to support the project dubbed "My Olympic Dream."

"We have been deeply involved in basketball, through the PBA, and golf for so long [and] this will be the first time that we will be embarking on such an ambitious project," Robles said.

PSA president and Daily Tribune sports editor Aldrin Cardona said the joint venture has drawn interest from the private sector, adding that the Philippine Olympic Committee (POC) has given its full backing to the "My Olympic Dream," project.

A golf tournament preceded the signing of agreement at the Orchard Golf and Country Club with Ernie Gonzales of the INQUIRER emerging as the overall and Class A Champion. Gonzales won a brand new 29-inch television set and a cash prize for his feat.

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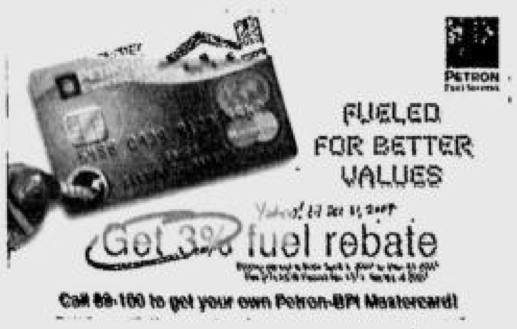
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RP external debt fell to $53B in June

BSP cites weaker dollar, local firms' investments in ROPs

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE COUNTRY'S EXTERNAL DEBT BURDEN EASED BY $1 BILLION to $53 billion in June this year from the previous quarter, translating to an improved external debt ratio of 41.3 percent of domestic output, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas reported yesterday.

The contraction was partly due to adjustments brought on by currency fluctuations, particularly the weakening of the US dollar, and increase of local firms' investments in Philippine foreign currency-denominated debt papers, or ROPs.

As ownership of some of the government's IOUs shifted to domestic investors, the portion of debt previously counted as part of foreign debt stock was thus converted into domestic debt.

The country's external debt stock registered with the BSP also eased compared to the $53.9-billion level as of end-June last year.

Local borrowers are required to seek BSP approval before tapping overseas loans if repayments are to be sourced from the local banking system.

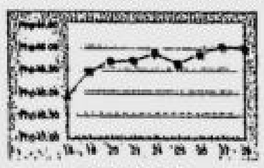
The BSP estimated that there was a $483-million increase in the investment of local banks in Philippine IOUs issued abroad, while foreign exchange revaluation adjustments on third currency-denominated accounts, given the US dollar's downtrend, resulted in a $576-million decline in the debt stock.

About 53.3 percent of the debt stock was denominated in US dollars and about 24.2

RP EXTERNAL/ B2

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



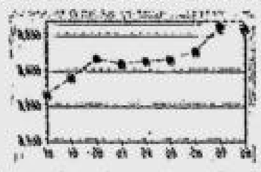
SEPTEMBER

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

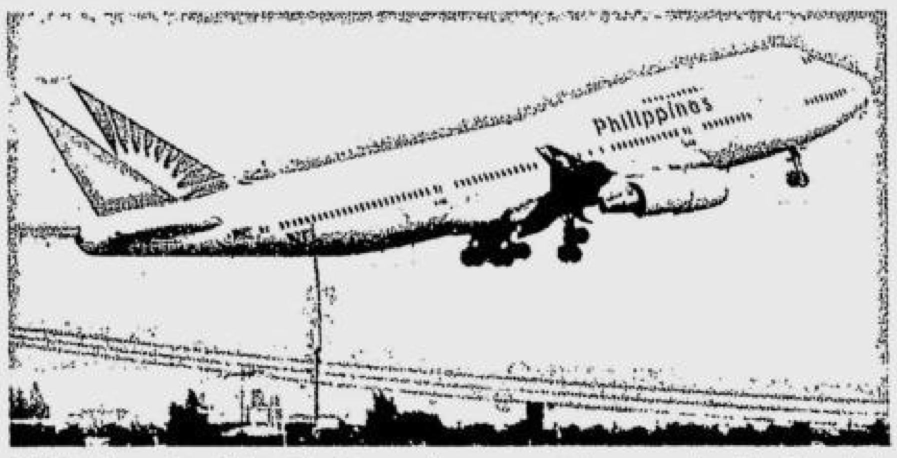
₱45.04 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Sept. 28, 2007

STOCK MARKET



(See stock market report on Page B2)



A PAL plane takes flight. The flag carrier appears to have regained its financial health as it announces its exit from receivership. INQUIRER PHOTO

PAL secures regulator's approval to exit rehab

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE Commission has approved Philippine Airlines' plan to exit from rehabilitation and "receivership status" almost a decade since the flag carrier almost succumbed to the burden of huge debts.

"From the reports [PAL officials have] submitted, we've seen their improved financial condition and their ability to service debts as these fall due," SEC commission secretary Gerard Lukban said. "We also took note of their conformance with their rehabilitation plan."

Receivership is a condition of a corporation, where a receiver or a third party has been appointed to protect the company's assets for the

PAL SECURES/ B2

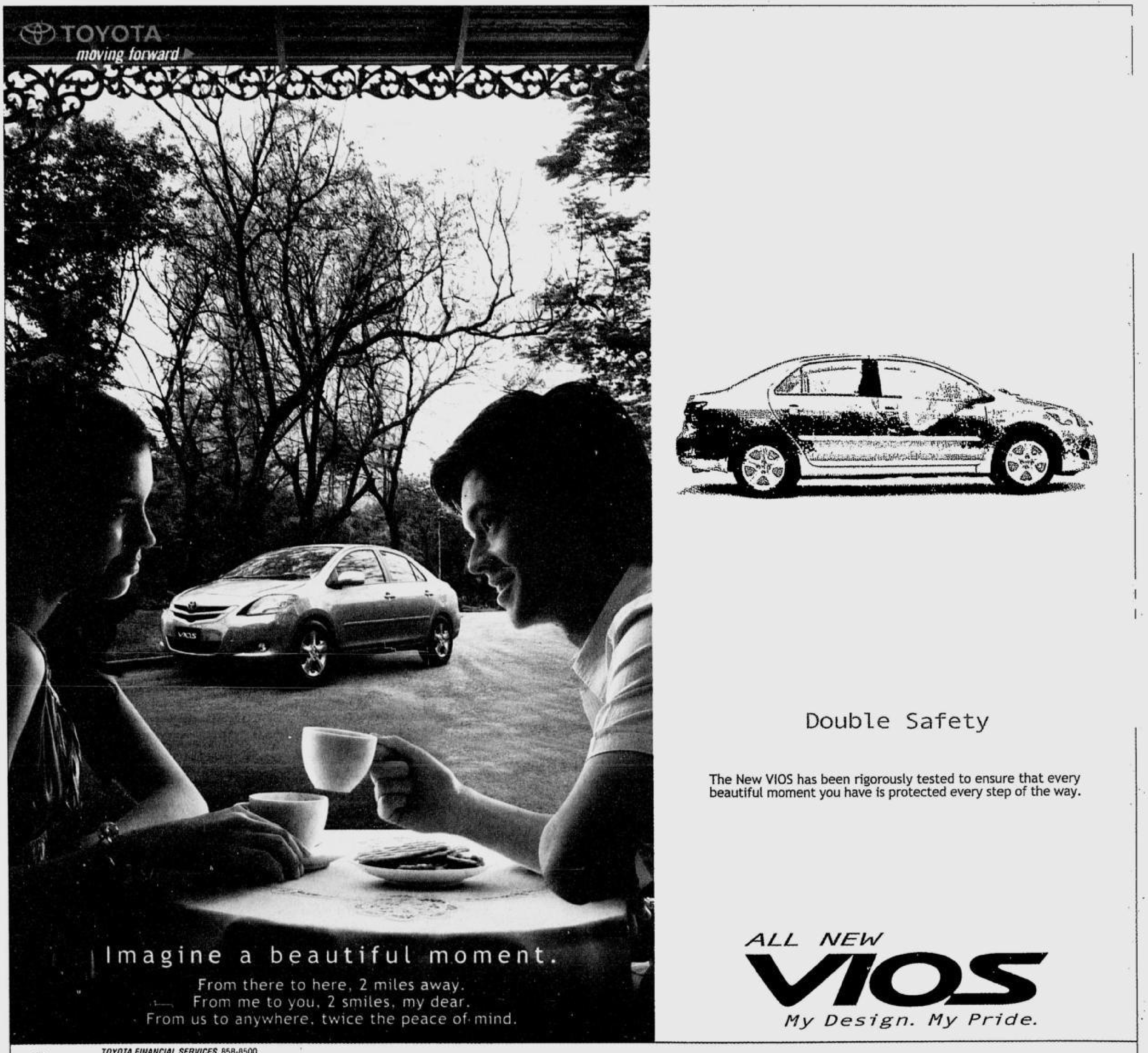
Shares close 0.1% lower

SHARE PRICES YESTERDAY CLOSED 0.1 percent lower as investors took profits on index heavyweight Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT), dealers said.

PLDT, the country's biggest company by market value, set a new record high in the first hour of trading before profit-taking set in, they said.

The composite index was down 4.61 points at 3,572.90 after trading between 3,562.99 and 3,617.16. Volume totaled 4.3

SHARES/ B2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From me to you, 2 smiles, my dear.
From us to anywhere, twice the peace of mind.
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Ayala eyes ₱5-B bond issue

Proceeds to be used in refinancing obligations

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

AYALA CORP. IS PLANNING TO issue P5 billion in five-year fixed rate peso corporate bonds as it continues to build up cash for 2008.

Ayala treasurer Ramon G. Opulencia said the company was scheduled to file yesterday afternoon its application for the peso bond float with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Ayala is in talks with a consortium of six banks, led by BPI Capital, to underwrite the bond float. It has yet to set the issue date.

The minimum issue size is P5 billion with an option to increase it to P7 billion.

The bond proceeds will be used to partly refinance debts before they mature next year and in 2009.

"This is in line with our thrust to focus on sourcing our funds from the domestic market and lowering our dependence on the offshore market," Opulencia said.

Over the years, Ayala has shifted its debt mix to 81 percent in pesos and 19 percent in US dollars compared with 90 percent US dollars and 10 percent in pesos in the past.

"This is in line with the continuing commitment to provide alternative investments to investors in the market, similar to what we have done in the past three years," Opulencia said.

Ayala has so far prepaid and refinanced P8 billion worth of debts since the start of the year, generating savings of about P500 million over the remaining life of these debts.

Proceeds from Ayala's value realization initiatives and healthy dividend flows from subsidiaries brought the company's cash level to P20 billion by the end of the first half.

Its net debt as of the end of the first semester was P13 billion.

Peso tests 44:$1 level, but closes at 45.04

THE PESO BROKE INTO THE 44:$1 level during early trade yesterday for the first time in two months on the resurgence of "hot money" inflows and the sustained influx of remittances from overseas Filipinos. The peso yesterday rallied to as high as 44.90 to $1 prompting the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to intervene.

With the BSP's heavy buying of dollars at the spot foreign exchange market, the peso pulled back to close at 45.04 to $1, currency traders said.

Yesterday's finish was slightly lower than Thursday's 45.01 to $1, while volume thinned to $344.30 million from the previous day's $671 million.

The peso last breached the 45 barrier on July 24 when it hit 44.70:$1, which is so far this year's peak.

At the sidelines of a Chamber of Thrift banks' forum yesterday, BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said yesterday's rally was still partly due to the global relief brought about by the US Federal Reserve's 50-basis point cut in its interest rate.

"There has been some orderly portfolio adjustment and return of investments to emerging markets, including the Philippines," Tetangco said.

Portfolio investments refers to foreign investments in local stocks, bonds and other money market products.

Currency traders said the BSP gobbled up about $200 million from the spot market yesterday to curb the peso's sharp appreciation.

"The market is looking at the 44.50-44.70 level maybe next week on the back of a weaker dollar," said a trader from a big local commercial bank. "The BSP has been heavily buying dollars in the last two days," the trader added.

Tetangco added that the continuing surplus in the current account position, arising from strong export earnings and OFW remittances, also continued to support the local currency.

Doris C. Dumlao

ATS declares cash dividends

ABOITIZ TRANSPORT SYSTEMS CORP. yesterday said it would pay cash dividends of P0.30 for every common and preferred share.

The dividend will be paid to stockholders on record as of Sept. 12, 2007.

The ATS board approved this at a special board meeting held on Aug. 30.

As of June 30, 2007, the company's combined common and preferred shares stood at 2.4 billion. Based on this, the dividends will amount to P3.12 billion.

The company said the dividends were made possible by the recent sale of SuperFerry 15 to Heung-A Shipping Co., Ltd. ATS gained P243 million upon delivery of the ship.

Riza T. Olchondra

Shares close ...

From page B1

billion shares worth P5.6 billion ($124.6 million).

Gainers narrowly beat decliners 56 to 54, while 55 stocks were flat.

The broader all-share index rose 3.91 points to 2,226.71.

PLDT fell P30 to P2,910, off a new record high of P2.

Ayala Corp. rose P15 to P550. Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co. led gains in the financial sector, closing one peso higher at P56. Megaworld Corp. rose 10 centavos to P3.45.

Select mining stocks were also in favor, led by Geograce Resources, which jumped 18 centavos to P2.36 as gold traded around 28-year highs.

AFP

RP external ...

From page B1

percent in Japanese yen.

Foreign loan transactions—availments and repayments—also contributed to a net decline of $7 million.

Debt prepayments during the quarter amounted to $520 million, including the redemption of the government's remaining $126 million Brady bonds, originally maturing in 2018.

With this reduction, the total external debt as a ratio of gross domestic product improved to 41.3 percent at end-June from 50.5 percent a year ago.

About 89 percent of the foreign loans carried a medium- to long-term maturity.

Of the total debt stock, consolidated public sector external borrowings amounted to $36.8 billion, lower than the previous quarter's $38.8 billion.

Money supply growth slowed down in Aug.

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE GROWTH IN THE COUNTRY's money supply eased to 14.9 percent in August year-on-year from 18.7 percent in July, giving the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas more flexibility to ease its monetary policy soon, analysts said.

BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. yesterday said demand for money decelerated even on a month-on-month basis, as seasonally adjusted domestic liquidity (m3) slowed down by 1.6 percent from a 0.8-percent rise in July.

Domestic liquidity or m3 is the broadest measure of money and is used to estimate the entire supply of money in an economy-- including money in circulation, demand deposits, money market funds and short-term repurchase agreements.

"The BSP will continue to monitor economic developments to ensure that monetary policy is delivering price stability and that inflation expectations are well-anchored," Tetangco said.

He said the growth reflected the strong external payments position of the country, which resulted in an expansion of the banking system's net foreign assets.

However, the overall growth was tempered by the decline in net domestic assets by 4.6 percent in August from 0.4 percent in July.

Tetangco said there was a large drop in "other items" account—which included the special deposit accounts (SDAs) and the overnight borrowings—following the implementation of certain BSP policy measures in May.

The BSP has locked up P433.5 billion of excess money in its high-yielding SDAs as of Aug. 24, making the central bank more reliant on this mopping-up tool compared to its overnight borrowings.

PAL secures ...

From page B1

benefit of creditors.

Rehabilitation is the process which an ailing company has to undergo to recover its financial health.

PAL has been under both rehabilitation and receivership at the supervision of the SEC since 1998.

PAL entered receivership under the supervision of the SEC after the carrier went through a series of setbacks, which led to massive financial losses.

It came to a point where airline operations had to be shut down which, in turn, pushed PAL to the brink of liquidation, officials earlier said.

With the SEC's approval, PAL may now exit from its receivership status ahead of time, PAL president Jaime Bautista said.

He also said that, once PAL has been freed up from receivership, PAL Holdings will pursue a fund raising activity early next year that may entail the issuance of shares, or securing new loans.

PAL's permanent rehabilitation receiver chair Renato Z. Francisco reported to the SEC that from March 15, 1999 to Aug. 31 this year, PAL management has "faithfully complied with the payment of its outstanding debts."

Total payment to creditors during the period amounted to $1.95 billion in principal and interest, including $187 million in prepayments. As of Aug. 31, PAL had reduced its outstanding debt to $869 million, from $2.12 billion in 1999.

CURRENCIES

September 28, 2007

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.706664	1.000000	45.0630
Japan	Yen	0.006113	0.008650	0.3898
United Kingdom	Pound	1.432408	2.027000	91.3427
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.091072	0.128876	5.8075
Switzerland	Franc	0.602236	0.852224	38.4038
Canada	Dollar	0.705535	0.998403	44.9910
Singapore	Dollar	0.474239	0.671096	30.2416
Australia	Dollar	0.620970	0.878735	39.5984
Bahrain	Dinar*	1.875385	2.653857	119.5908
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.188993	0.267444	12.0518
Brunei	Dollar	0.472654	0.668852	30.1405
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000077	0.000109	0.0049
Thailand	Baht	0.022363	0.031646	1.4261
UE	Dirham	0.192468	0.272361	12.2734
EU	Euro	1.000000	1.415100	63.7687
Korea	Won	0.000768	0.001087	0.0490
China	Yuan**	0.094036	0.133071	5.9966
Denmark	Kroner	0.134140	0.189822	8.5539
India	Rupee	0.017827	0.025227	1.1368
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.206930	0.292826	13.1956
New Zealand	Dollar	0.528861	0.748391	33.7247
Sweden	Kroner	0.108505	0.153546	6.9192
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.021466	0.030377	1.3689

Source: Reuters' forex closing prices as of NY time—Sept. 27, 2007

* Various banks in Bahrain as quoted in Reuters' Screen.

** Asian time closing rate as of Sept. 27, 2007

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of September 28, 2007)

52-WEEK	52-WEEK	STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
		BANKS					
17.5	5.5	Asiatrust Development Bank Inc.	8.6	8.6	8.6	8.6	30,000
73	39	Banco de Oro-EPCI Inc.	59	59.5	57	59	1,396,500
73.5	53	Bank of the Philippine Islands	67.5	67.5	66	66.5	3,027,900
935	630	China Banking Corp.	880	885	880	880	7,600
23.5	18.5	Citystate Savings Bank	23.25	23.25	23.25	23.25	300
0.63	0.36	Export and Industry Bank Inc	0.42	0.43	0.42	0.42	6,100,000
75.5	40	Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co.	56	58	55.5	56	6,775,700
65.5	33	Philippine National Bank	47	48.5	47	48.5	197,400
68	41	Philippine Savings Bank	62	62	62	62	200
72	40	Philippine Bank of Communications	55	55	55	55	500
39.57	15	Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.	23	23.25	23	23.25	4,050,900
90	49.5	Security Bank Corp.	72	76	72	76	93,300
66	43.52	Union Bank of the Philippines	55	55.5	54.5	55	437,200
		OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
5.6	1.76	ATR KimEng Financial Corp.	3.85	3.95	3.85	3.95	41,000
2.22	0.6	Bankard Inc.	1.92	1.94	1.92	1.92	1,108,000
16.25	3.7	CitisecOnline.com Inc.	10.75	11.5	10.75	11.25	2,651,700
8.8	4.6	Filipino Fund Inc.	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1	1,000
1.6	0.4	First Abacus Financial Holdings Corp.	0.89	0.89	0.88	0.88	210,000
1,805.00	1,560.00	Manulife Financial Corp.	1,780.00	1,780.00	1,780.00	1,780.00	840
5	2.95	National Reinsurance Corp. of the Phils.	3.6	3.65	3.6	3.65	883,000
1,005.00	232	The Philippine Stock Exchange Inc	755	770	755	770	1,220
2,335.00	1,945.00	Sun Life Financial Inc.	2,290.00	2,290.00	2,290.00	2,290.00	120
1.94	1.3	iVantage Corp.	1.58	1.6	1.54	1.54	1,720,000
		ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
6.2	3.8	Aboitiz Power Corp.	5.3	5.4	5.2	5.4	3,590,000
0.57	0.23	East Asia Power Resources Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	450,000
70	49	First Gen Corp.	62	63.5	62	63.5	685,100
92	50	First Phil. Holdings Corp.	80	80	77.5	77.5	683,300
15	8.8	Manila Water Co. Inc.	14.25	14.25	13.75	14	3,832,100
105.45	17.27	Manila Electric Co.	83	83.5	82	83	1,966,200
7	4.1	PNOC Energy Development Corp.	6.4	6.4	6.2	6.4	6,450,000
6.5	3.9	Petron Corp.	5.8	5.9	5.7	5.7	4,044,000
14.75	6.6	Phoenix Petroleum Philippines Inc	7.6	7.6	7.2	7.2	343,000
1.9	0.99	Trans-Asia Oil & Energy Dev't Corp	1.26	1.26	1.22	1.24	769,000
		FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
6.3	3.2	Alaska Milk Corp.	5.1	5.2	5.1	5.2	108,000
2.95	1.66	Alliance Tuna International Inc.	1.8	1.8	1.76	1.78	947,000
28.5	19.5	Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	24.5	24.5	24.5	24.5	350,000
61	34	Jollibee Foods Corp.	52.5	53	52.5	53	652,700
25	20	Liberty Flour Mills Inc.	24	24	24	24	100
0.98	0.43	RFM Corp.	0.81	0.82	0.81	0.82	240,000
3.85	2.06	Roxas Holdings	2.44	2.5	2.44	2.5	5,000
80	59	San Miguel Corp. "A"	60.5	62	60.5	62	64,700
88	59.5	San Miguel Corp. "B"	63	63	62	62.5	158,400
0.66	0.25	Swift Foods Inc.	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	180,000
22	15.25	Universal Robina Corp.	16.5	16.5	16	16.25	1,610,200
0.55	0.26	Vitarich Corp.	0.36	0.39	0.36	0.39	80,000
		CONSTRUCTION INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
6.1	1.83	EEI Corp.	4.25	4.4	4.25	4.4	758,000
9.2	4.9	Holcim Philippines Inc.	8.4	8.4	8.2	8.2	4,697,000
7	1.44	Republic Cement Corp	4.1	4.1	3.95	4	97,000
2	0.28	Southeast Asia Cement Holdings Inc.	1.26	1.26	1.18	1.24	9,319,000
		CHEMICALS					
6.3	3.75	Chemrez Technologies Inc.	4.15	4.15	4.1	4.15	752,000
2.5	1.32	Euro-Med Laboratories Phil. Inc.	2.26	2.26	2.26	2.26	10,000
		DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
0.75	0.125	Picop Resources Inc.	0.41	0.41	0.4	0.41	[illegible]
		HOLDING FIRMS					
3.9	2.06	A. Soriano Corp.	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	25,000
0.17	0.025	AJO.net Holdings Inc.	0.11	0.11	0.1	0.105	17,830,000
1.28	0.22	APC Group Inc.	0.84	0.85	0.82	0.84	15,910,000
3.6	1.5	ATN Holdings Inc. "A"	3.1	3.15	3.05	3.05	976,000
3.7	1.5	ATN Holdings Inc. "B"	3.25	3.3	3.25	3.3	16,000
0.018	0.007	Abacus Cons. Res. & Hold'gs Inc. "A"	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	25,400,000
0.019	0.0075	Abacus Cons. Res. & Hold'gs Inc. "B"	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	2,000,000
9.7	5.1	Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc.	6.9	7	6.9	7	8,323,000
0.021	0.0075	Alcorn Gold Resources Corp.	0.015	0.015	0.014	0.015	50,800,000
7.3	3.5	Alliance Global Group Inc.	5	5.2	5	5.2	126,535,000
2.9	0.89	Anglo-Philippine Holdings Corp.	2.34	2.34	2.3	2.32	901,000
8	0.8	Aries Prime Resources Inc.	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	35,000
590	375	Ayala Corp.	540	565	540	550	611,650
5.8	1.22	Benpres Holdings Corp.	4.15	4.15	4.05	4.15	5,425,000
10.25	3.75	DMCI Holdings Inc.	9.2	9.2	8.9	9.1	556,000
6.9	1.08	Eton Properties Philippines Inc.	4	4	4	4	33,000
2.5	0.7	F and J Prince Holdings Corp. "A"	1.5	1.6	1.5	1.6	193,000
8	2.55	Filinvest Development Corp.	5.4	5.6	5.3	5.4	1,311,000
3.55	1.26	House of Investments Inc.	1.88	1.88	1.88	1.88	39,000
14.5	6	JG Summit Holdings Inc.	10.25	10.75	10.25	10.75	350,800
5.9	0.61	Jolliville Holdings Corp.	1.9	1.92	1.84	1.9	150,000
0.8	0.205	Medco Holdings Inc.	0.64	0.64	0.59	0.59	110,000
0.95	0.195	Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.52	0.55	0.52	0.55	200,000
11.5	1.1	Multitech Investments Corp.	6.2	6.6	6.1	6.2	13,064,000
8.2	2.8	PAL Holdings Inc.	6.8	6.9	6.8	6.9	86,000
0.215	0.01	Pacifica Inc. "A"	0.2	0.2	0.185	0.19	190,120,000
1.54	0.72	Prime Media Holdings Inc.	0.89	0.89	0.8	0.85	340,000
0.75	0.18	Prime Orion Philippines Inc.	0.47	0.47	0.45	0.45	3,470,000
452.5	237.84	SM Investments Corp.	375	377.5	370	372.5	129,010
0.73	0.125	Sinophil Corp.	0.42	0.43	0.41	0.42	12,520,000
1.06	0.6	Solid Group Inc.	0.71	0.72	0.71	0.72	360,000
23	1	TKC Steel Corp.	18.25	18.25	18	18	66,000
0.75	0.1	Wellex Industries Inc.	0.4	0.41	0.39	0.4	10,320,000
		PROPERTY					
2.34	0.96	A Brown Co. Inc.	1.52	1.52	1.5	1.52	147,000
8.9	5	Anchor Land Holdings Inc	8	8	7.7	7.8	62,000
1.06	0.32	Araneta Properties Inc.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	80,000
19.25	11.25	Ayala Land Inc.	16.75	16.75	16	16.25	10,196,500
1.88	1	Belle Corp.	1.2	1.22	1.18	1.2	2,175,000
4.7	2.65	Cebu Holdings Inc.	3.8	4.1	3.8	4.1	543,000
2.9	1.3	Cityland Development Corp.	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	20,000
0.86	0.31	Crown Equities Inc.	0.64	0.64	0.63	0.63	1,230,000
0.83	0.24	Cyber Bay Corp.	0.52	0.53	0.5	0.5	6,230,000
0.99	0.52	Empire East Land Holdings Inc.	0.73	0.73	0.71	0.71	3,440,000
0.47	0.05	Ever Gotesco Resources & Hold'gs Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	4,150,000
1.48	0.61	Fil-Estate Land Inc.	1.24	1.26	1.2	1.22	19,187,000
2.44	1.26	Filinvest Land Inc.	1.7	1.78	1.7	1.74	147,084,000
0.49	0.1	Gotesco Land Inc. "A"	0.28	0.28	0.26	0.26	400,000
1.12	0.24	MRC Allied Industries Inc.	0.58	0.6	0.56	0.58	9,320,000
4.4	1.73	Megaworld Corp.	3.5	3.65	3.45	3.45	96,240,000
6.4	1.5	Metro Pacific Investments Corp.	4.4	4.4	3.9	3.9	88,000
0.7	0.125	Phil. Estates Corp.	0.38	0.38	0.37	0.37	800,000
0.87	0.32	Philippine Realty & Holdings Corp.	0.51	0.52	0.51	0.51	3,040,000
23	12.5	Robinson Land Corp.	16.5	16.5	16	16.5	9,170,600
5.9	1.52	SM Development Corp.	4.2	4.3	4.2	4.3	2,003,000
13.5	6.64	SM Prime Holdings Inc.	12	12	11.5	12	6,917,600
3.25	1.02	Shang Properties Inc.	2.42	2.42	2.36	2.36	224,000
1.34	0.46	Suntrust Home Developers Inc.	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	300,000
0.49	0.08	Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.29	0.3	0.26	0.27	11,020,000
7.5	3.65	Vista Land and Lifescapes Inc.	5.1	5.1	4.95	5.1	12,815,000
		MEDIA					
38.5	16.25	ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	31.5	32	31.5	32	57,100
11.75	8.7	GMA Network Inc.	9.2	9.5	9.2	9.5	849,000
		TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
2.12	1.1	Digital Telecommunications Phils. Inc.	1.3	1.36	1.3	1.36	2,898,000
1,520.00	1,055.00	Globe Telecom Inc.	1,515.00	1,515.00	1,465.00	1,470.00	106,350
2,950.00	2,150.00	Phil. Long Distance Telephone Co.	2,950.00	2,950.00	2,910.00	2,910.00	106,970
7.9	4.5	Pilipino Telephone Corp.	7	7.1	6.9	7.1	2,647,000
		INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
0.39	0.17	Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.195	0.195	0.19	0.195	11,320,000
12	2	Diversified Financial Network Inc.	9.5	9.8	9.3	9.6	18,000
11.5	2	IPVG Corp.	8.4	8.5	8.2	8.2	2,076,000
0.065	0.027	ISM Communications Corp.	0.05	0.055	0.046	0.048	1,204,400,000
2.9	1.48	Ionics Inc.	1.86	1.86	1.8	1.8	410,000
0.32	0.043	Island Information & Technology Inc.	0.195	0.195	0.185	0.19	15,030,000
2.08	1.1	Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.26	1.28	1.26	1.28	130,000
0.0725	0.029	PhilWeb.Com Inc.	0.0525	0.0525	0.05	0.0525	271,800,000
5.8	1	Transpacific Broadband Group Int'l Inc.	2.6	2.6	2.5	2.55	1,434,000
		TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
2.14	1.14	Aboitiz Transport System Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	47,000
6.8	3.5	Asian Terminals Inc.	3.75	3.9	3.75	3.9	265,000
38.5	16.5	Int'l Container Terminal Services Inc.	37.5	37.5	36	36.5	1,031,200
2.16	0.93	Keppel Philippines Marine Inc.	2	2	2	2	91,000
		HOTEL & LEISURE					
16.5	5	Acesite (Phils.) Hotel Corp.	8.8	9	8.8	9	74,000
4.25	1.8	Leisure and Resorts World Corp.	2.7	3	2.65	2.95	2,953,000
4.55	2.8	Philippine Racing Club Inc.	3.45	3.45	3.45	3.45	10,000
0.98	0.3	Premiere Entertainment Prod Inc.	0.61	0.69	0.61	0.68	14,800,000
1.2	0.42	Waterfront Philippines Inc.	0.8	0.85	0.8	0.84	3,200,000
		EDUCATION					
3.7	2.6	iPeople Inc.	3	3	3	3	76,000
		DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
6	1.94	Macroasia Corp.	4.6	4.6	4.5	4.6	199,000
17.25	9.8	Pacific Online Systems Corp.	12.75	13.25	12.75	13.25	60,000
30	10.75	Paxys Inc.	13	13	12.25	12.75	1,922,000
		MINING					
0.017	0.0085	Abra Mining and Industrial Corp.	0.013	0.013	0.012	0.012	221,900,000
7.6	3.6	Apex Mining Co. Inc. "A"	5.8	5.8	5.6	5.7	347,000
7.7	3.85	Apex Mining Co. Inc. "B"	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	62,000
21.25	7.7	Atlas Cons. Mining and Dev't Corp.	15.75	16	15.5	16	2,732,100
14.25	8.9	Benguet Corp. "A"	12	12	12	12	9,000
5	1.8	Dizon Copper Silver Mines Inc.	3	3.1	3	3.1	35,000
3.1	0.51	Geograce Resources Philippines Inc.	2.2	2.36	2.2	2.36	124,924,000
0.37	0.18	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "A"	0.35	0.36	0.35	0.36	58,020,000
0.42	0.22	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "B"	0.37	0.37	0.36	0.36	23,970,000
0.038	0.017	Manila Mining Corp. "A"	0.028	0.028	0.027	0.028	176,500,000
0.041	0.02	Manila Mining Corp. "B"	0.031	0.031	0.031	0.031	1,400,000
30	1.2	NiHAO Minerals Resources Int'l Inc.	19.25	20.25	18.75	20	4,291,800
0.021	0.0079	Omico Corp.	0.013	0.014	0.013	0.013	193,500,000
7.8	3.45	Philex Mining Corp.	7.7	7.8	7.5	7.7	8,105,000
43	14.75	Semirara Mining Corp.	34	34.5	34	34.5	28,600
1.36	0.39	United Paragon Mining Corp.	1.06	1.06	1	1.02	731,000
1.8	0.56	Vulcan Industrial and Mining Corp.	1.28	1.28	1.26	1.26	3,595,000
		OIL					
0.58	0.25	Basic Energy Corp	0.35	0.36	0.34	0.35	12,000,000
0.026	0.0095	Oriental Pet. & Minerals Corp. "A"	0.026	0.026	0.025	0.025	191,600,000
0.027	0.01	Oriental Pet. & Minerals Corp. "B"	0.027	0.027	0.026	0.026	5,100,000
11.75	9	Petroenergy Resources Corp.	9.8	10	9.8	9.9	117,000
0.028	0.0089	The Philodrill Corp.	0.026	0.027	0.026	0.026	683,700,000

AVERAGES			VOLUME	VALUE
Financial	908.52 UP	1.18	32,514,380	943,566,782.00
Industrial	4,572.74 UP	12.97	54,661,800	546,874,580.00
Holding Firms	2,033.04 UP	34.95	593,613,460	1,782,680,675.00
Property	1,612.71 UP	6.51	346,882,700	1,115,428,030.00
Service	1,740.49 DOWN	21.89	1,538,010,620	689,734,015.00
Mining & Oil	7,372.10 UP	45.77	1,712,667,500	552,923,115.00
All Shares Index	2,226.71 UP	3.91		
PSEI	3,572.90 DOWN	4.61		
		GRAND TOTALS	4,278,350,460	5,631,207,197.00

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SOURCE: TECHNISTOCK PSE

Power sector needs P304B in investments

TO ENSURE ADEQUATE POWER SUPPLY in the coming years, the Department of Energy is seeking at least P304 billion in additional investments from the private sector.

In a statement issued yesterday, Energy Secretary Angelo Reyes said the amount would cover the construction of natural gas pipelines and the conversion of coal and thermal power plants to natural gas.

Another area that could benefit from the additional investments, he said, would be the biofuels industry.

He also urged investors to actively participate in the government's efforts to privatize the power sector, particularly in the sale of National Power Corp.'s generation assets and the auction of the 25-year National Transmission Corp.

Under the Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan, the DOE is batting for private sector investments worth at least P580 billion in the coming years, for all aspects of the energy sector.

Since 2001, the DOE had firmed up P200 billion worth of investments, the bulk of which would go to oil and gas exploration. This left P380 billion which the DOE has yet to get from the private sector. The bulk of the amount was earmarked for the power sector.

Reyes said the DOE would review its rules and regulations to make it easier for investors to infuse much needed cash into the power sector. *Abigail L. Ho*

PSALM obtains contracts for Calaca plant

SUPPORT FOR MINDANAO DEVELOPMENT
US Deputy Chief of Mission Paul Jones (right), with Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industries (PCCI) president Samie Lim and Gen. Santos City Mayor Pedro Acharon make their way to the 16th Mindanao Business Conference. Jones spoke before 500 delegates of the MinBizCon, stressing the US government's commitment to remain an active partner in Mindanao's development. He noted the vast opportunities in the region and how they will help spur a more prosperous and peaceful Mindanao. This year's event was organized by the General Santos City Chamber of Commerce, PCCI, and supported by the USAID-funded GEM Program.

Power agency sweetens pot prior to facility's auction next month

By Abigail L. Ho

THE POWER SECTOR ASSETS AND Liabilities Management Corp. has secured transition supply contracts covering almost half the installed capacity of the 600-megawatt (MW) Calaca coal-fired power plant in Batangas.

The plant is set to be auctioned off next month.

National Power Corp. president Cyril Del Callar said 290 MW worth of supply contracts had already been put in place for the Calaca plant, the bulk of which were for some of Manila Electric Co.'s supply requirements.

The 600-MW Masinloc coal-fired power plant in Zambales was sold in July for $930 million, with 265 MW worth of supply contracts attached to it.

Supply contracts provide the winning bidder a ready market for the power to be generated by its power plant.

The presence of supply contracts makes the power facilities to be auctioned off more attractive to potential investors.

During the July 18 pre-bid conference for the Calaca plant, 17 investor groups signified their interest to bid for the generation asset.

PSALM is scheduled to bid out the Calaca plant on Oct. 16.

According to PSALM, it should be able to reach the 50-percent privatization level of Napocor's Luzon and Visayas capacities by year's end.

The 70-percent level should be attained by next year. The entire privatization process is scheduled to be completed by 2009.

PSALM has so far sold 24.8 percent of Napocor's 4,335.7-MW capacity in the two grids.

Apart from Calaca, other plants the PSALM will be auctioning off within the year are the 175-MW Ambuklao-Binga hydropower plant package in November, and the 192.5-MW Palinpinon geothermal facility and 146.5-MW Panay diesel-fired power plant package in December.

PSALM has so far sold eight Napocor hydropower facilities, including the 3.5-MW Talomo plant in Davao, the 1.6-MW Agusan facility in Bukidnon, the 1.8-MW Barit plant in Camarines Sur, the 0.4-MW Cawayan plant in Sorsogon, the 1.2-MW Loboc plant in Bohol, the 112-MW Pantabangan-Masiway package in Nueva Ecija and the 360-MW Magat plant in Isabela.

The first big-ticket item that it has been able to privatize is the Masinloc plant.

PSALM is also preparing to auction off the 25-year National Transmission Corp. concession in December.

Basic Energy beefs up management for PNOC-EDC bid

IN PREPARATION FOR ITS BID to acquire a 60-percent stake in PNOC Energy Development Corp., listed firm Basic Energy Corp. has beefed up its advisory team with the appointment of two new members.

Basic Energy compliance officer Angel Gahol told the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday that the company had appointed Oscar De Venecia as consultant and chair of its advisory board.

De Venecia has been with the firm for more than 30 years, holding various positions, including president and chief executive.

He is also past chair and president of the Petroleum Association of the Philippines.

Basic Energy likewise appointed former Finance Undersecretary Gabriel Singson Jr. as member of the company's advisory board.

The company is one of the 24 entities that signified interest to bid for the government's remaining 60-percent stake in PNOC-EDC.

The other 23 groups are ABN-AMRO Bank, Aboitiz Power Corp., Africa Israel Group-Asia Pacific, Alsons Consolidated Resources Inc., American Orient Capital Partners (Philippines) Inc., Ashmore Energy, ATN Holdings Inc., Belo Gozon Elma Parel Asuncion & Lucilla, First Gen Corp., Geysir Green Energy represented by Sycip Salazar, International Power Plc., Kanematsu Corp., Latham & Watkins LLP, Marubeni Philippines Corp., One Energy Ltd., Orix Corp., PCCI Securities Brokers Corp., Reykjavik Energy Invest, Rosalie A. Dimaano, Suez Energy Asia Co. Ltd., Sumitomo Corp., Sycip Salazar Hernandez & Gatmaitan Law Offices, and Triratna Holdings Corp.

According to the bidding timetable, potential investors have until Oct. 5 to submit the initial prequalification requirements, including the confidentiality agreement and undertaking.

The PNOC Privatization Committee will release the list of prequalified bidders on Oct. 10.

Prequalified bidders will be required to pay a nonrefundable fee of $5,000 on Oct. 11-12 for them to avail themselves of the draft transaction documents, the information package and the due diligence procedures.

Only those who will prequalify will be allowed to conduct due diligence audit on the shares to be sold. This should start no later than Oct. 15.

The prequalified bidders will then be required to submit final qualification documents by 7 p.m. of Oct. 26, with those who will be able to pass this final screening to be given until 9 a.m. of Nov. 21 to turn in their bids. *Abigail L. Ho*

SM unit picks 2 foreign advisers

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

SM PRIME HOLDINGS Inc. of mall czar Henry Sy has picked two foreign investment banks to study the company's planned acquisition of three malls owned by the Sy family in China.

In a disclosure to the stock exchange, SM Prime said it had appointed Citigroup Global Markets Ltd. and Macquarie Securities (Asia) Pte. Ltd. to be the joint financial advisers for the proposed plan to fold-in Sy's privately owned malls into SM Prime, Sy's publicly listed mall developer.

SM Prime said it would announce further details on the proposed acquisition as soon as the study was completed.

Sources said the investment banks would evaluate the planned acquisition and advise SM Prime on its effects on the company.

Sy owns two malls in Fujian province—a 120,000-square meter shopping mall opened in 2003 in Xiamen, and a 170,000-sq. m. mall in Jin Jiang City launched in late 2005.

Sy's third mall in China, which is as big as the Jin Jiang mall, was opened last year in Chengdu, the fifth largest city in the country, with a population of 2.3 million.

Chengdu is said to be one of the most important economic centers and transportation and communication hubs in China.

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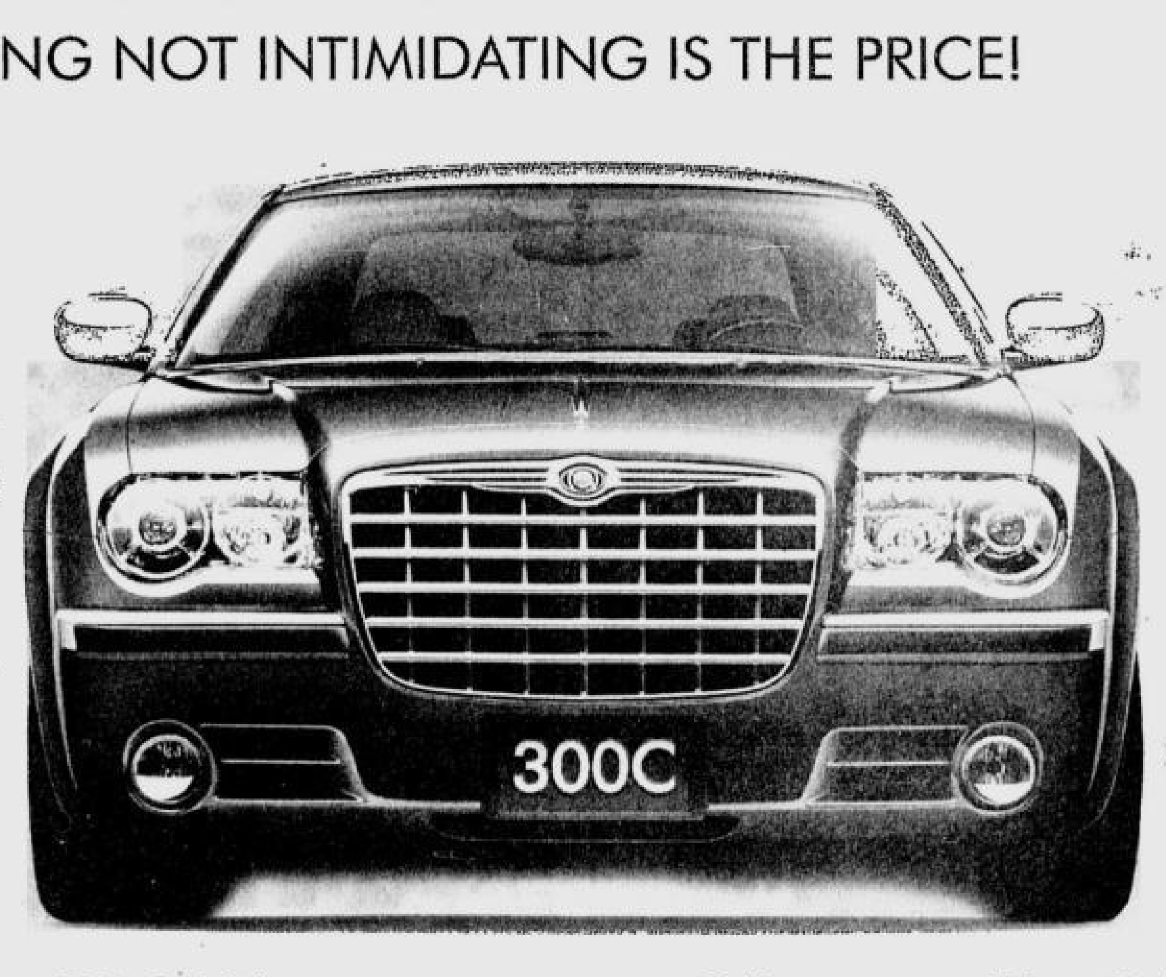

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BIR, Customs see exemption from salary law

Measure to improve gov't collection performance

By Michelle V. Remo

A BILL EXEMPTING THE BUREAU OF Internal Revenue and the Bureau of Customs from the Salary Standardization Law has been filed with the House of Representatives.

The bill, authored by Rep. Danilo Suarez of the third district of Quezon, was in response to the request of the finance department for Congress' help in professionalizing the two revenue-collecting agencies by allowing increases in the salaries of their employees.

The Salary Standardization Law, or Republic Act No. 6758, provides for a uniform salary structure for government employees.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves earlier said allowing increases in the salaries of BIR and Customs employees would help boost revenue collections by these agencies.

The BIR and the BOC are the biggest revenue earners among government agencies, and their collection performance has significant impact on the national government's ability to meet its deficit-reduction targets.

The BIR has more than 11,000 employees, while the BOC has more than 4,000.

Revenue Commissioner Lilian Hefti said her office would lobby for the approval of the bill, saying this would inspire revenue collectors to improve their revenue collection performance.

"This bill will definitely benefit the BIR. This will help boost the morale of our people," Hefti said.

The bill prescribes a formula for computing the salaries of BIR and BOC employees. Hefti said the bill would effectively increase the current salaries of BIR employees by 300 percent based on the agency's collection last year.

Teves said increasing salary levels might be a more prudent way of boosting collection than the Lateral Attrition Law, which mandates the granting of rewards to BIR and BOC employees whenever yearly collection targets are reached.

The law also imposes penalties if these agencies fail to meet their goals. If the revenue-collection shortfall was at least 7.5 percent of the full-year target, concerned employees may be reassigned, demoted or dismissed.

Customs employees are entitled to monetary rewards because the BOC surpassed its collection target of by more than P2 billion in 2006. The BIR failed to meet its target for 2006 but none of its employees will be penalized because no revenue district office posted a shortfall of at least 7.5 percent.

The Department of Finance said the rewards for BOC employees for the 2006 collection performance would be given next year. The delay in the release of the rewards was due to the failure of the national government to take this into account when the 2007 budget was prepared.

The BIR and the BOC failed to meet their revenue collection targets in the first half of this year but both are hopeful their full-year targets would still be achieved considering the better collection performance in July and August.

The BIR is tasked to collect P765 billion in taxes this year, while the BOC should turn in P228.2 billion. These are consistent with the national government's goal of limiting its budget deficit to only P63 billion this year from last year's P64.8 billion.

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Region VI - Iloilo City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The ***National Food Authority, Region 6***, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites interested NFA registered grains hauling/trucking service contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the provision of grains hauling/trucking services thru RORO (door-to-door) for Calendar Year 2008 with Project Reference No. RO6-2008-04.

Lot No.	Particulars	Minimum Trucking Reqmt.	Quantity in Bags	Hauling Rate/bag (PhP)	A B C (PhP)
1	Transfer of NFA rice to Bacolod City receiving warehouses (door-to-door):				
	a. From Jaro Triplex/Kabsaka Whse.	16	60,000	25.77	1,546,200.00
	b. From Dumangas Grains Center		40,000	23.84	953,600.00
	TOTAL		100,000		2,499,800.00

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking similar project within the last three (3) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. Or in lieu of the single largest contract, potential bidders should have at least three (3) completed similar contracts in the aggregate amount of at least 50% of the ABC to be bid; provided that the largest of these similar contracts must be at least 25% of the ABC, and the bidder has been in existence for at least 3 years prior to posting of this IAEB. Provided further that prospective bidder must have key personnel and equipment (owned, leased or under purchase) available for the prosecution of the project. The list of minimum requirement is indicated in the Eligibility Forms. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule
Issuance of Bid Documents	October 1 – 12, 2007 8AM – 4PM
Pre-Bid Conference	October 15, 2007 3:30 PM
Opening of Bids	October 29, 2007 3:30PM

Bid documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) to the National Food Authority Cashier.

The National Food Authority, Region 6 assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

The National Food Authority, Region 6 reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
VILMA H. ZARRAGA, MNSA
Quintin Salas, Jaro, Iloilo City
☎(033) 329-2165 / 320-6246
Fax No. (033) 320-4764

(Sgd.) **VILMA H. ZARRAGA, MNSA**
BAC Chairperson

(PDI - Sept. 29, 2007)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Region VI - Iloilo City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The ***National Food Authority, Region 6***, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites interested NFA registered grains hauling/trucking service contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the provision of grains hauling/trucking services for Calendar Year 2008 with Project Reference No. RO6-2008-03.

Lot No.	Particulars	Minimum Trucking Reqmt.	Minimum Capacity 50-kg bag	Hauling Rate (PhP)	A B C (PhP)
1	*Within Panay Island*	16	6,400		3,308,625.00
	Radius of 20 km & below			80.00/MT	
	Exceeding 20 km to 50 km			3.75/MT/km	
	Exceeding 50 km to 100 km			3.50/MT/km	
	Exceeding 100 km to 150 km			3.25/MT/km	
	Exceeding 150 km			3.00/MT/km	
2	*Within Negros Occidental*	16	6,400		3,681,000.00
	Radius of 10 km & below			75.00/MT	
	Exceeding 10 km to 50 km			3.75/MT/km	
	Exceeding 50 km to 100 km			3.50/MT/km	
	Exceeding 100 km to 150 km			3.25/MT/km	
	Exceeding 150 km			3.00/MT/km	
	TOTAL				6,989,625.00

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking similar project within the last three (3) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. Or in lieu of the single largest contract, potential bidders should have at least three (3) completed similar contracts in the aggregate amount of at least 50% of the ABC to be bid; provided that the largest of these similar contracts must be at least 25% of the ABC, and the bidder has been in existence for at least 3 years prior to posting of this IAEB. Provided further that prospective bidder must have key personnel and equipment (owned, leased or under purchase) available for the prosecution of the project. The list of minimum requirement is indicated in the Eligibility Forms. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

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(Sgd.) **VILMA H. ZARRAGA, MNSA**
BAC Chairperson

(PDI - Sept. 29, 2007)

Balanced budget seen dependent on privatization revenues

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE GOVERNMENT'S GOAL of wiping out its budget deficit next year is feasible but largely dependent on nonrecurring revenues from privatization, Japan Credit Rating Agency Ltd. said.

In its quarterly review on the Philippines, JCRA said the government must maintain the improving fiscal trend and lock in gains from the high economic growth seen this year to meet huge infrastructure spending needs.

"It is of paramount importance for the Arroyo administration to continue efforts to strengthen its tax collection capability so that the activated economic performance may steadily lead to an expansion of tax revenues," JCRA said.

"This is particularly of relevance in view of its infrastructure development plan that will require an increased spending," it added.

The rating agency noted the decline in the national government deficit as a ratio of gross domestic product to 1.1 percent in 2006 after peaking at 5.3 percent in 2002.

"The improving fiscal position has triggered a virtuous cycle of prompting the appreciation of the peso, which sent both the inflation rate and interest rates falling," JCRA said.

For the first eight months of the year, the government has trimmed its budget shortfall to P25.5 billion versus the P42 billion deficit cap for the period.

Given a prospective gain in privatization revenues, JCRA said the deficit target of P63 billion appeared achievable.

But in view of the government's infrastructure development plan, it said the administration would need to boost its tax collection capability further.

JCRA also cited the stronger inflows of foreign direct investment to the country this year, which it attributed to the improved investor confidence in the Philippine economy.

Food sector embarks on sustainable agriculture initiative programs

AT THIS TIME WHEN THE WORLD has become more conscious of the effects of industrialization on the environment, the food industry decided to step up efforts to meet the challenge with a Sustainable Agriculture Initiative platform.

SAI is a groundbreaking program created by leading food firms Nestle, Danone and Unilever to actively support and promote sustainable agriculture. It encompasses social, environmental and economic dimensions that impact on the people's lives.

"We in the food industry should share practices and experiences that will ensure sustainability from an environmentally and economically sound point of view," said Nestle Philippines Inc. (NPI) head of agriculture department Joel Lumagbas in a statement.

PROGRAMS to address concerns of farmers and consumers, and issues on environment and productivity

Quality, nutritional value

The SAI platform aims to improve the quality, safety and nutritional value of agricultural products through concrete ways of increasing their nutritional content and safety. It addresses issues such as improving the farmers' productivity through livelihood programs, land and conservation of water, soil and power.

NPI's Nescafe introduced SAI to key players of the local food industry, government agencies, and non-government organizations through the First SAI Platform-Convention last November. It has SAI programs that touch base with coffee farmers.

"The SAI platform supports agricultural practices and agricultural production systems that preserve the future availability of current resources and enhance their efficiency," said SAI Europe representative Patrick Leheup, who stressed the importance of long-term and efficient supply of agricultural raw materials.

Preserving resources

Sustainable agriculture is aimed at preserving environmental resources and favors the use of renewable resources. The SAI platform focuses on issues involving the optimal use of natural resources and how to minimize the impact of agricultural activities on different geographical scales. Protecting land and water resources against improper use of fertilizers and pesticides is an example.

Then there's the issue of air pollution. Agriculture, particularly with the high use of fertilizers and pesticides, can cause air pollution which can adversely affect the environment, damage plants and contaminate water and soils.

Sustainable agriculture is aimed at ensuring that energy inputs from non-renewable resources are minimized and that, whenever possible, alternative energy sources like bio fuel are used.

The SAI platform likewise involves biodiversity, crop health and animal welfare. It is a massive undertaking that needs full support from the private sector, government and academe.

"Progress here and elsewhere has exacted a heavy toll on food production," said Agriculture Undersecretary Jose Emmanuel Paras. "This is why we need to ensure the needs of the present without risking the needs of the future."

Concrete actions

Through Nescafe, NPI has come up with SAI-related practices. These include its promotion of Coffee-Based Sustainable Farming System (CBSFS) and the establishment of buying stations in key coffee-producing areas around the country.

The CBSFS is a planting method that helps farmers increase their income by allowing them to plant other crops alongside coffee.

DA, SMC to put up corn trading centers

By Amy R. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE and conglomerate San Miguel Corp. yesterday inked a memorandum of understanding to study the viability of putting up post harvest corn processing and trading centers worth P40 million each.

The proposed joint undertaking among the DA, SMC, National Agribusiness Corp. and San Miguel Purefoods seeks to stabilize corn prices and reduce drying and processing costs by half.

Corn currently costs P10.50 to P13 a kilo, depending on the source.

The move is also aimed at cutting post-harvest losses to 5 percent from 15 percent, which is seen to result in an increased production of high quality corn and a higher income for corn farmers.

"These facilities will also serve as venues where farmers can obtain technical assistance on adopting good agricultural practices, as well as processing and marketing of quality products," Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap said.

Purefoods president Francisco Alejo III said during the signing that San Miguel imports some 150,000 metric tons of corn yearly.

San Miguel buys yellow corn for its broiler and aquatic feeds business.

Alejo said these centers would help ensure the high quality and continuous supply of this commodity for San Miguel, which in turn, will provide corn farmers with a steady, assured market.

San Miguel will help put up the grain centers that would be equipped with silos, dryers and shellers.

For its part, DA would provide technical and marketing assistance and aid to corn farmers.

According to Agriculture Assistant Secretary Dennis Araullo, SMC is eyeing four sites for the grain centers, which include Isabela, Pangasinan, Bataan and Bukidnon.

"We are targeting to put up 50 grains centers by 2010. At the end of the year, we are expecting to have a total of eight centers, "he added.

Meanwhile, a second MOU was signed between DA and San Miguel to study the feasibility of establishing a Carabao Dairy Farm, to accelerate the growth of the local dairy industry.

Under the proposed initiative, the DA's Philippine Carabao Center and National Dairy Administration will provide the technical assistance.

SMC will supply animal feeds, operate the dairy farm and buy the raw milk.

Asian consumers vote St. Luke's as 'Trusted Brand in Hospital Care'

CONSUMERS FROM SEVEN ASIAN COUNTRIES who participated in the Reader's Digest 9th annual survey of brand performance voted St. Luke's Medical Center as a Gold Trusted Brand in Hospital Care.

The 2007 Reader's Digest Trusted Brand Awards: The Ultimate Seal of Consumer Approval were based on 7,000 responses to questionnaires and telephone interviews from randomly selected readers in Hong Kong, India, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, and Thailand. This year, Reader's Digest introduced three local product categories to ensure that local market specialties and trends are also reflected in the annual regional survey. Hospital Care is one of the three new categories in the survey.

In the survey, respondents were asked to nominate their most Trusted Brand in 43 product categories. They were then asked to assign a score for each brand for the six core qualities: trustworthiness, credibility of image, quality, value, how well each brand understands consumers' needs, and its ability to innovate.

Respondents rated brands based on the following questions: Is the brand safe for consumer use and does it consistently deliver on the promises it makes in its promotions?; Is the brand's identity believable and appropriate?; Are the brand's products or services well-made or well-designed?; Does the brand offer good value for money?; Does the brand respond to and satisfy customers' needs?; Does the brand regularly introduce new products, features or services?

Reader's Digest has two categories of awards-Gold and Platinum. The Gold Trusted Brand award goes to brands that score well above their competitors, while the Platinum Trusted Brand award is given for truly outstanding achievement and goes to competitors that have scored at least double that of their nearest rival. The Reader's Digest Trusted Brands survey is the only regional annual study to measure such a broad spectrum of consumer tastes.

"We thank Asian consumers who participated in the survey for recognizing St. Luke's commitment to excellent patient care," said Jose F. G. Ledesma, president and CEO, St. Luke's Medical Center. "Rest assured that St. Luke's will work even harder to maintain its long tradition of excellence in providing quality patient care."

"This award further strengthens our resolve to be one of the top five healthcare providers in Asia," said Christine Liwanag, St. Luke's senior vice president for strategic marketing and corporate affairs. "The synergy of state-of-the-art technology and topnotch medical expertise is synonymous with St. Luke's Medical Center-it is our brand, it is what St. Luke's is most known for."

"St. Luke's excellence is recognized the world over," said Dr. Joven Cuanang, St. Luke's senior vice president for medical affairs and medical director. "We are affiliated with New York-Presbyterian Hospital, Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, Weill Cornell Medical College of Cornell University, and Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. This latest award challenges us not to rest on our laurels, but to remain focused on providing excellent patient care."

In November 2003, St. Luke's became the first hospital in the Philippines and only the second of 26 in Asia to be accredited by Joint Commission International (JCI), the world's most prestigious healthcare accreditation body. Last November 2006, JCI officially reaccredited St. Luke's Medical Center, making it the first hospital in the Philippines and only the second in Asia to receive JCI re-accreditation.

St. Luke's Heart Institute director emeritus Dr. Homobono Calleja, associate director for business development Rey Dimaano, and Liwanag received the award on behalf of Ledesma during the Reader's Digest Trusted Brand Awards Night held at the Peninsula Manila Hotel.

SMART SUPPORTS MARTIN NIEVERA'S 'MILESTONES'

The country's Concert King Martin Nievera (center), one of the original endorsers of leading wireless services provider Smart Communications Inc (Smart), recently marked his 25th year in the Philippine music industry and launched a new album, 'Milestones'. In celebration of the top balladeer's stellar career, guests were treated to an evening of good music at Martin's well-attended show at the Captain's Bar at The Mandarin Oriental Hotel in Makati City. Photo shows Martin Nievera flanked by Smart executives Annie P. Naval, acquisition, loyalty, and marketing services department head, and Danilo J. Mojica, wireless consumer division head.

ROTARY CLUB OF MALOLOS HIYAS INDUCTION

Photo shows Corina Tengco-Bautista, leading the 9th Installation of Officers and Turn-Over Ceremonies and the Induction of New Members of Rotary of Malolos Hiyas held last Aug. 24. Guest of Honor was Senator Noynoy Aquino while provincial Governor Joselito R. Mendoza delivered the inspirational message.

COCA-COLA'S BASKETBALL CLINIC WITH ALI PEEK

Last Aug. 25, the Coca-Cola Tigers Champions Basketball Clinic went to Faith Academy in Antipolo with the Coca-Cola Tigers' Ali Peek, John Arigo, Alex Cabagnot and Leo Avenido. Coke's series of basketball clinics are organized in collaboration with Coach E Basketball School. Through the clinics, Coca-Cola aims to teach kids basic basketball skills as well as the values of living a balanced, healthy and active lifestyle or HAL which include: eating a balanced diet, regular physical activity and proper hydration. Ali Peek, pictured here with coach Eric Altamirano, founder of Coach E spoke about the importance of hydration.

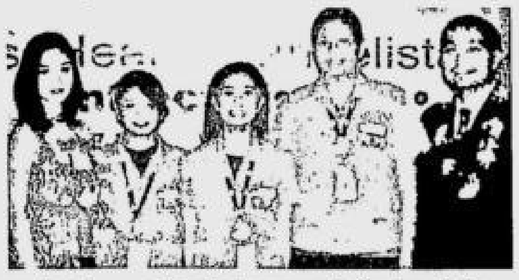
MARC NELSON ENDORSES KENNY ROGERS ROASTERS

Marc Nelson puts a premium on health and wellness. According to Marc, the keys to good health are disciplining one's self to exercise, eating right and living a healthy lifestyle. He insists his food be both tasty and nutritious. And he found the answer in Kenny Rogers Roasters. For his main meals, he prefers roasted and grilled rather than fried food, believing it to be the tastier, healthier alternative. The classic Kenny Rogers' Roast Chicken with a serving of corn-and-carrots is a Marc Nelson favorite. All Marc has to do is drop by any of Kenny Rogers' 36 branches or call 533-8888 for delivery and he gets exactly what he wants - freshly prepared, delicious and healthy dishes. This sports enthusiast, world-class model, TV host, fitness buff and risk taker refuses to compromise, maintaining a healthy lifestyle and choosing to eat right. No wonder, he readily agreed to be the face behind Kenny Rogers Roasters.

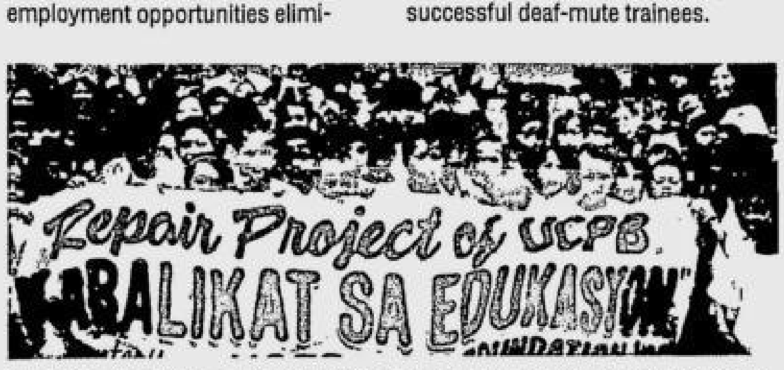
LATEST TECHNOLOGY IN REMOVING CATARACT

American Eye Center, the country's leading ambulatory eye surgical facility, is now offering to the public a 'no-stitch cataract extraction surgery' using the state of the art Alcon Infiniti Vision System, an ophthalmic surgical instrument that provides the latest modes of cataract lens extraction using high performance ultrasound handpieces. It is intended for use in small incision cataract lens removal thus allowing eye doctors to perform safe, fast and sutureless or 'no-stitch' cataract surgery within 15 minutes. All these are done under eye drop anesthesia, eliminating the need for hospitalization. Accredited by Philhealth, the American Eye Center is located only at the 5th level of Shangri-La Plaza mall, Mandaluyong City. Contact numbers: 636-0762 or cellphone 0917-LASER ME.

INK FOR LESS CREATES JOBS FOR DEAF-MUTES



Speech- and hearing-impaired individuals can be just as productive in the work environment, according to Ink for Less - the country's biggest name in the ink refilling business. As part of its renewed social advocacy thrust, the company has spearheaded a pilot program that will train a select group of deaf-mutes who will soon be deployed among its different outlets nationwide. The move aims to spark a new level of social awareness for the productive potentials of the physically-impaired. Giving them employment opportunities eliminates their propensity for inactivity and self-pity, which in turn reverses the trend of discrimination towards them. Photo shows teen superstar Heart Evangelista (extreme left) and Ink for Less president and chair Amable 'Miguel' C. Aguiluz IX (extreme right) with some of the company's successful deaf-mute trainees.



UCPB COMPLETES REPAIR OF BICOL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

UCPB turned over recently to officials of the Department of Education in Region 5 the fully repaired classrooms of the Bogtong Elementary School, Estanza Elementary School and Matanag Elementary School in Legaspi City. The classrooms were heavily damaged by typhoon Reming. UCPB undertook the repair under its new 'Kabalikat sa Edukasyon' project, which aims to provide assistance to public schools in coconut areas.

ProductFILES

Mini Meet meeting rooms

IN ANTICIPATION OF ITS GROWING CLIENT base, The Legend Villas has constructed new function rooms that can accommodate small business meetings of 10 to 15 people. The development is an addition to an existing ballroom. Function rooms are equipped with WiFi connectivity and data ports for Net connection. A professional audio system with cable microphone or lapel microphone is available. Plus, there are various tools for presentations-overhead projector, projection screen, easel stand, glass marking board, TV, CD/VCD/DVD player. Branded as Mini Meet, the package is designed for small group of 10 to 15 people that needs a function room right away. Most hotel function rooms are too big. The Legend Villas, created Mini Meet, the answer to those who needs to meet in a small but comfortable meeting rooms immediately or frequently. Price starts at P900 nett per person, minimum of 15 persons. Inclusive of two snacks and one set lunch, whole day use of function room, flowing coffee and tea and conference kit. Book now! For more inquiries, please call Banquet Sales Office at direct lines; 632-7022711 to 14. (632) 6339261 or 6320845-Fax. Trunklines: (632) 633-1501 to 10. Or visit the website at www.legendvillas.com.ph. The Legend Villas is located at 60 Pioneer, corner Madison Streets, Mandaluyong City.

Handling menopause naturally

DURING MENOPAUSE, a woman's hormone production drops below the level required to continue her periods. Menopausal symptoms are not the same for every woman. The more common symptoms are irregular periods, fatigue, stress, hot flashes, mood swings, weight gain, fluid retention, night sweats, tender breast, headaches, vaginal dryness, uterine fibroids, and depression. A natural herbal supplement , Hemofer Liquid Herbal Tonic Supplement was recently introduced in the market to specifically help give relief to mature women experiencing the symptoms of menopause. It contains eight herbs that have been used Chinese traditional medicine for hundreds of years specifically for women. Working synergistically to help alleviate the symptoms of menopause, the combination of these herbs have also been used to treat the symptoms of painful or irregular menstruation and has been known to help treat anemia, specially after birth. Hemofer Liquid Herbal Tonic Supplement is manufactured by Pangaoshou Pharmaceutical Co Ltd in Guangzhou, China and exclusively distributed in the Philippines by Spring Vine Herbal Trading Corp. It is now available in all Mercury Drugstores, Watson and other leading drugstores. For further information, text 0922-8203438 or 0927-4347832.

Bits & Clips

Mezze's Tapas Bar opens today

DISCOVER AND EXPERIENCE FOR YOURSELF AN EXCITING AND AUTHENTIC Mezze Tapas Bar featuring our guest chef Bingoy Remedios every weekend from 3 to 6 p.m. starting today. Enjoy Mezze's Tapas Calientes featuring the mouth watering Patatas Bravas, Salpicao Wraps (mini Gyros of salpicao with crisp romaine lettuce, mozzarella, onions and garlic aioli), Squash Blossoms (stuffed with sausage, goat cheese and mozzarella), Spanakopeta (Filo pastry stuffed with spinach, basil and crumbled feta cheese), and Gambas and Croquetas. Or try their Tapas Frias which boasts of the sumptuous Mezedes (Hummus, baba ganoush and roasted pepper dip served with pita bread), Fig and Prosciutto (with melted blue cheese spiced Mediterranean fig compote and balsamic reduction), Tuna Tartare (Sashimi grade tuna spiced with chili aioli, fresh chives and sesame dressing), Smoked Salmon and Black Caviar (with onion dill crème fraich grated hard boiled egg, chopped red onions and chives), Fruit Frais Aux Fromage (tasty plate of fine European Cheese served with fresh fruits and melba toasts) and Shrimp Shooters (cold-poached prawns with Bloody Mary cocktail sauce). All these healthy and delicious fare for only P350++ per head will certainly match well with some of the best Spanish Wines for an equally affordable P300++ per head. It will be a full 3 hours of savoring the best Tapas, excellent Spanish Wines and great company in a fashionable, healthy and uniquely Mezze style. Please call 728-8895 for more details and reservations.

Free load with Auction.ph's Barkada Text promo

AUCTION.PH, THE BEST BUYING AND SELLING ON THE WEB, GIVES AWAY MORE FREE LOAD BY extending the highly successful Barkada Text promo and reinforcing the platform by expanding its compatibility to other mobile networks. Previously, the promo was open to Globe subscribers only. Now, Barkada Text 3 will likewise be applicable to all Smart and Sun subscribers. Globe, Smart and Sun subscribers can easily avail of the Barkada Text promo. Auction.ph members simply have to refer friends who will sign up for membership. They can refer friends by logging on to www.auction.ph, clicking on the Barkada Text banner and then following the simple instructions. Every successful referral earns members P30 worth of free load. More successful referrals mean more free load. Non-members are invited to take advantage of the promo as well by visiting the website and registering for free membership. The Barkada Text 2 promo yielded astounding results for Auction.ph. The positive response prompted the extension of the promo and its expansion to accommodate other networks. "We are extremely happy with the Barkada Text Promo and its newest installment, Barkada Text Promo 3 is an organic evolution of a successful campaign," says Rommel Santos, marketing officer of Auction.ph. For more information about the Barkada Text Promo, log on to www.auction.ph or call 637-4705.

GfK Custom Research Phils celebrates 10th year

STARTING AS AUDITS AND SURVEYS WORLDWIDE (ASW), AN AMERICAN MARKET RESEARCH company first established in the Philippines in 1997 by Alicia Pascual, its first managing director, the company underwent four more name changes as a consequence of global research company mergers in the United States and Europe. ASW eventually changed its name to RoperASW, NOP World, GfK NOP and finally GfK Custom Research Philippines from 1997 to the present. Nini Balderama, currently the managing director, is hosting a thanksgiving celebration for its valued clients and key suppliers on Oct. 2 at the Bahia of the Intercontinental Manila. There is a good roster of speakers from GfK HQ in Germany, GfK China as well as from the local client sectors who will talk about interesting topics during the program.

UP College of Engineering homecoming

CALLING ALL ALUMNI OF THE UP COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING TO THE ANNUAL GRAND homecoming on Friday, Nov. 9, 6 p.m. at the NBC Tent, Fort Bonifacio Global City. Hosted by Silver Jubilarian Class 1982, organized by the UP Alumni engineers, and presented by Smart Communications. Reserve your tickets early to join the fun! For more details, contact Grace or Shane. at mailto.upae@engg.upd.edu.ph or call 436-1386 or 0919-4880748.

Orocan: providing the easy way in

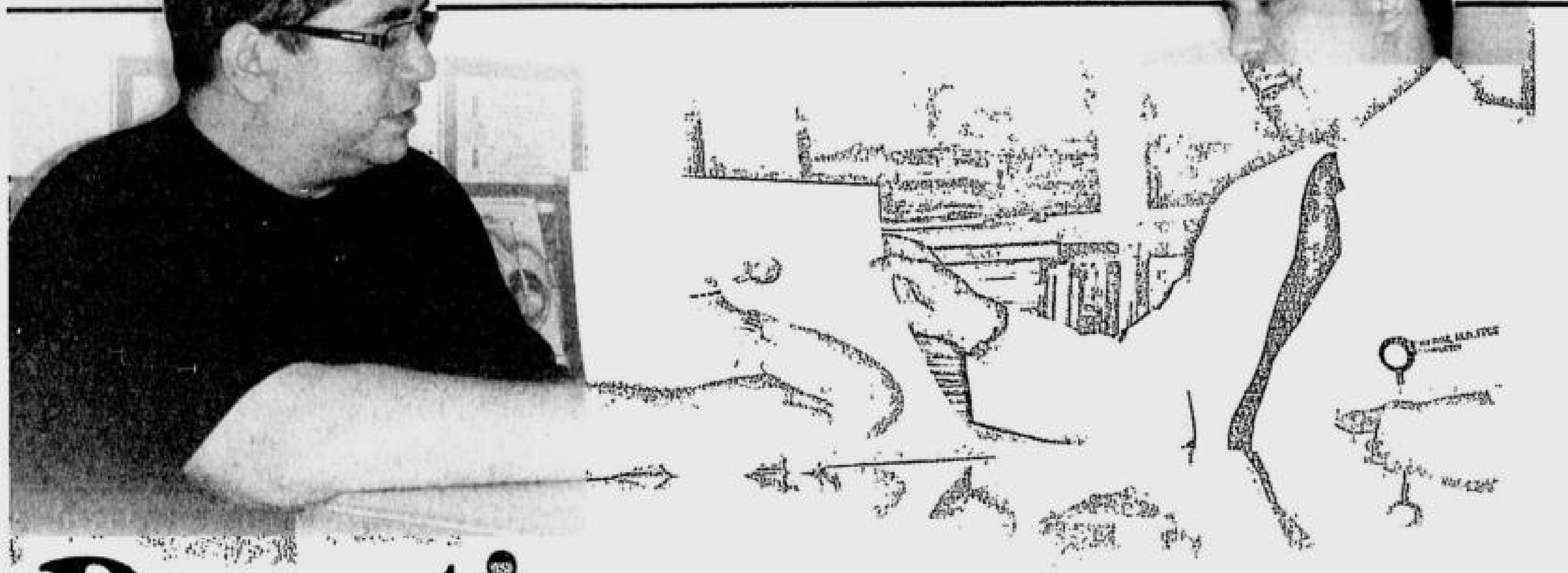
FOR THOSE WHO ARE MOVING TO A NEW HOME, APARTMENT OR OFFICE, THE PROSPECT OF "starting anew" is a thrilling one. But a carefully planned transfer can make every bit of it fun and enjoyable. Orocan can help you move out - and go in the easy way. The acquisition of various items from Orocan's wide-product range can help you out in putting the "finishing touches" and adding highlights to your new home's look. Like a faithful home buddy, Orocan is there to ensure that you enjoy the entire process of moving out and moving in every step of the way. Whatever the season maybe, transferring or not, Orocan is the perfect home and office companion for you. Check out Orocan products at all leading department stores near you.

URCC University Challenge

THE URCC UNIVERSITY CHALLENGE IS ON ONCE AGAIN. WITH A BIGGER SHOWING OF FIGHTERS this time around, the University Challenge showcases amateur mixed martial artists from different universities in and around the Philippines clad in protective head-gear and fighting shorter rounds. Presented by San Mig Strong Ice, along with Yoshinoya, the 2nd URCC University Challenge new battlefield is Glorietta 3 Park , the date of the college - spectacle will be on Saturday, Sept. 29, at 6 p.m. Tickets available at the gate, or call - 0915-59467214 or visit www.urccmma.com.

Harp Seal Oil, the superior source of Omega-3

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IDENTIFIED THAT THE BEST SOURCES OF OMEGA-3 COMES FROM THE Harp Seal - a mammal found abundantly in the waters of Newfoundland and Labrador. Maxi Cardio Harp Seal Oil processed in Newfoundland, Canada in a modern licensed facility, uses the highest quality seal oil obtained for the North Atlantic Harp Seal. Harp Seal Oil is rich in Omega-3 long chain polyunsaturated fatty acids (Pufa) including Docosahexaenoic Acid (DHA), Eicosapentaenoic Acid (EPA) and Docosapentaenoic Acid (DPA). In addition, there are considerable levels of squalene and Vitamin E. These compounds are essential in the development and maintenance of good health. Harp Seal Oil is the only supplement rich in natural DPA which can be 10 times greater in seal oil and is known to be a significant catalyst for EPA. Maxi Cardio is now available at all leading drug stores nationwide. For any further inquiry, contact 02-8530163, 758-6287 or e-mail: hb-biotech@hotmail.com.



Drastic measure for serious condition

Text and photos by Charles E. Buban

BEING OBESE OR OVERweight isn't just a vanity issue.

In fact, these two conditions should be regarded as serious since they are now being closely linked to a staggering array of disabling and expensive diseases: Type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease, hypertension and stroke, and certain forms of cancer.

"They lead not only to poor figure but also potentially life-threatening diseases," reminded Dr. Hildegardes Dineros, a leading proponent of bariatric surgery in the Philippines and head of the Healing Hand Clinic at St. Luke's Medical Center in Quezon City.

Nothing else will work

In fact, Dineros reported that in the case of morbidly obese—those who are 50 percent to 100 percent above their their ideal body weight—nothing else will work for them, except agreeing to undergo a certain type of procedure called bariatric surgery.

Bariatric surgery refers to an operation performed to limit the amount of food that the stomach can hold either through gastric bypass, in which the digestive tract is surgically altered to literally bypass most of the stomach; or gastric banding, in which a large portion of the stomach is tied off, leaving only a small pouch.

Although this type of surgery should be considered a last resort, a growing number of doctors who treat weight loss with less invasive methods are now contending that bariatric surgery is the only way for many morbidly obese patients to lose weight and keep it off.

No longer a question

"As always, the risks of the operation must be balanced against the consequences of obesity and its attendant diseases. However, for people who are 91 to 136 kg over their ideal weight, it's no longer a question of diets or will power," the doctor said.

CONSTANT monitoring of weight is important to check on the progress.

Such was the decision that one of his patients has agreed to.

Over a year ago, the situation has gone bad—insofar as health is concerned—for Philippine Amateur Swimming Association president Mark Joseph, who at 150 kg has started to suffer high blood pressure, get tired easily as well as a host of other symptoms.

"Believe me, I exercised, too, tried all those weight-loss diets. In fact, I did lose some weight but the problem was keeping it as I eventually go back to being way over my ideal weight. It was then that I decided I need to take drastic measures so I went to Dr. Dineros who gave me several options," Joseph said.

Gastric banding

Eventually both decided for the laparoscopic adjustable gastric banding procedure (the Swedish adjustable gastric band variant that Johnson & Johnson/Ethicon Endo-Surgery makes), which is a purely restrictive surgical procedure in which a band is placed around the uppermost part of the stomach.

"This band divides the stomach into two portions: one small (near the esophagus) and one larger portion (that leads to the small intestine). Since the food goes directly to the smaller pouch, the patients feel full faster. As the name indicates, the band is adjustable. So if the rate of weight loss is not acceptable, the band can be adjusted. Food digestion happens through normal digestion," Dineros explained.

He said this type of surgery is almost always perceived as an aggressive weight-loss procedure, however, he reported that results from studies done throughout the years have shown that the procedure also caused resolution to diseases such as Type 2 diabetes.

Lost more than 20 kg

"I've lost more than 20 kilos already and yet I could still eat all the foods that I like as well as exercise for as long as I like without feeling so tired so easily," said Joseph who is a former swimming champion.

He added that there's not much restrictions after surgery as he could still do most of the physical activities.

Obesity has reached epidemic proportions globally, with more than 1 billion adults overweight—at least 300 million of them clinically obese—and is a major contributor to the global burden of chronic disease and disability.

Dineros said it could be due to today's diet composed of energy-dense, nutrient-poor foods with high levels of sugar and saturated fats, combined with reduced physical activity he progress.

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6 degrees of superheroes

DISCOVER

Massie Santos Ballon

WHAT DO YOU DO AT THE Centro Atomico Bariloche and Instituto Balseiro in Argentina? Apparently, if you're physicist Pablo Gleiser, you have time to write a paper on the social networks within the Marvel Universe, home of superheroes such as Spiderman, Daredevil and the X-Men. (It's not known just how much Gleiser's choice of topic was influenced by the recent influx of Marvel heroes in movie theaters.)

Gleiser's paper, which was submitted to an online physics archive operated by Cornell University last Aug. 17, starts by referencing interest in studying networks within the realm of physics, but quickly moves on to the superheroes. Personally I think a scientist who can write a physics paper that cites the Marvel Universe website not once but four times deserves more than a passing mention.

Online project

Gleiser's work is partially based on data sourced from the Marvel Chronology Project, which is unaffiliated with Marvel Comics. This online project—to call it a mere fan site seems to undermine all the work invested in here—catalogues every superhero and villain appearance in a Marvel comic book between 1961 and 2001, with more detail than the official Marvel website character bios offer. As Gleiser points out, that's about 6,500 characters in 13,000 comic books.

Online social networks such as MySpace or Friendster have clusters. You might have 30 friends linked to you on one of these sites, but one of them might count you among his 30,000 friends. (By the way, British psychologist Will Reader, who studies the befriending process of these sites, has suggested that these "superfriends," as I call them, have so many social links because the electronic barriers mean less time and effort are needed to make and keep online friendships.)

By studying the Marvel Universe's social networks, Gleiser identified Captain America and Spiderman as the "superfriends" of the superhero network, as they each link to more characters than anyone else. Smaller clusters, he noted, link back to former X-Men member Beast, and the Fantastic Four's Thing.

Villains, on the other hand, have smaller social networks. Bad guys, it seems, just don't trust many people enough to call them friends. (Those of you who may remember the "Superfriends" cartoons where the villains formed the Legion of Doom should know this group doesn't count because they were DC Comics characters, not Marvel.)

Comics code

The lack of villain networks is also due to the Comics Code Authority, which was established in the United States in 1954 to make sure the comics being sold were age-appropriate for their target audience: children. Though the code has been modified several times over the years though, today, only DC Comics and Archie Comics still follow these rules. Marvel Comics stepped away from the code in 2001, choosing to develop its own ratings system and guidelines.

Some rules laid down by the CCA in 1954 are still in effect though. For example, good must triumph over evil and the villains shouldn't be made to appear sympathetic or role models the readers would want to emulate. This is why superheroes team up more often to defeat the bad guys. The real question is, are the superheroes teaming up for appearances and a little shared glory, or are they doing it because the villain can't be defeated on his own?

Perhaps the answer lies with the Comics Code Authority, whose edict remains unchanged nearly 50 years after being issued: "While crimes and criminals may be portrayed for dramatic purposes, crimes will never be presented in such a way as to inspire readers with a desire to imitate them nor will criminals be portrayed in such a manner as to inspire readers to emulate them." Villains can't be heroes, it seems, and if it takes a little teamwork to demonstrate that crime does not pay, then working together to defeat the forces of evil it only reinforces the message that good will always win out.

* * *

E-mail the author at massie@massie.com.

KIDS QUIZ

By Emman Cena

Who's your daddy now?

TWO ISSUES BACK, WE HAD OUR TEST ON HOW ANIMALS call their mother and young.

Wait, there's more. How about those who fathered our young critters?

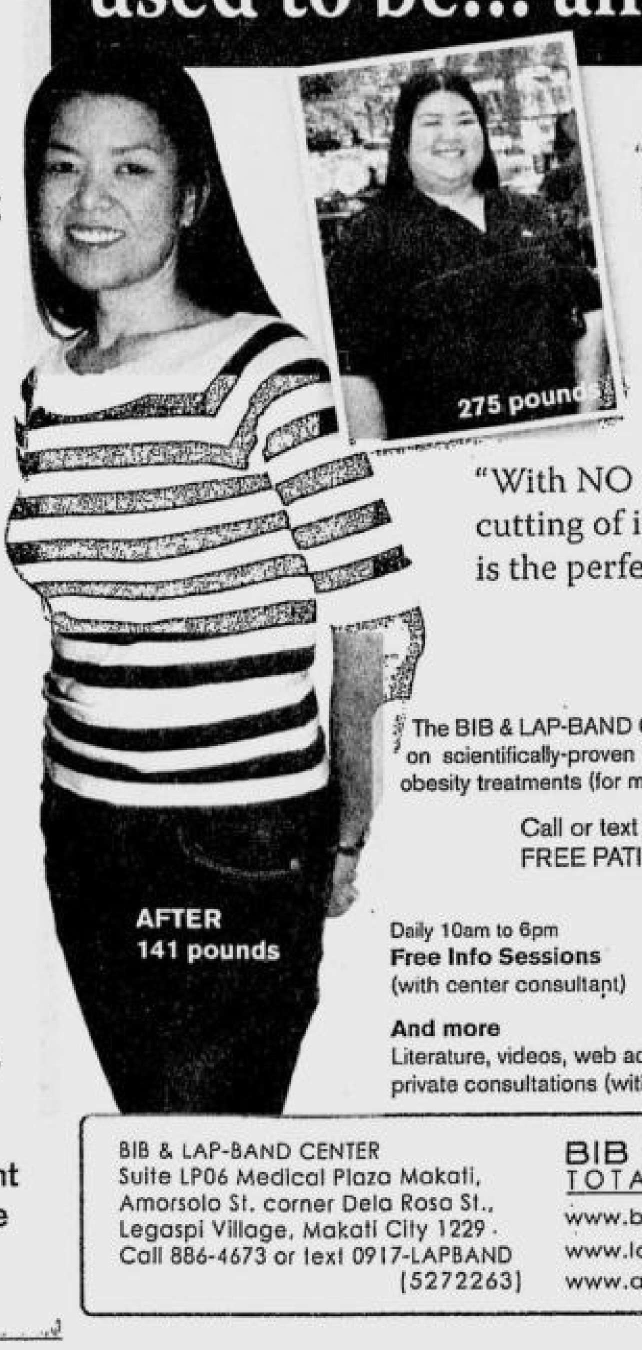
Check your knowledge of the names by matching the name of the baby animal on the left with the name of his or her father on the right.

Best of luck kiddos!

YOUNG	FATHER
1. larva (bee)	a) reynard
2. kid (goat)	b) tiercel
3. cub (fox)	c) boar
4. lambkin (sheep)	d) gander
5. piglet (pig)	e) buck
6. cygnet (swan)	f) drone
7. gosling (goose)	g) peacock
8. kit (ferret)	h) ram
9. peachick (peafowl)	i) hob
10. eyas (hawk)	j) cob

Score: 1-4 Good; 5-7 Very Good; 8-10 Excellent

Answers: 1-f, 2-e, 3-a, 4-h, 5-c, 6-j, 7-d, 8-i, 9-g, 10-b



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Australian expert talks about cervical cancer vaccine

By Tessa R. Salazar

AUSTRALIAN GYN- ECOlogical oncologist Dr. Gerry Waine of the Sydney Westmead Hospital visited Manila through the invitation of MSD (Merck Sharpe & Dohme)and had a one-on-one interview with INQUIRER Science/Health about the benefits of cervical cancer vaccine.

Q. You're a staunch advocate of cervical cancer vaccine in Australia. Are your children vaccinated already?

A. My daughter and my son.

Even males?

My son is 24 years old. He's off label but I think human papilloma virus (HPV) infection in men is very important because it (HPV in men) transmits the infection .to women. But the disease is predominant in women. So that's one of the reasons the Australian government vaccinates only women at the moment, but if you're being logical about it, you have to vaccinate both groups to try and reduce the infection.

Are you also vaccinated?

No. I'm too old (laughs). Well, I think it is important to understand that the vaccine is most useful sooner after starting sexual activity. The best time to get the vaccine is in young adolescents before they are sexually active.

DR. Waine is behind the government funded mass immunization in Australia. Today, Australian children and young adults (between the ages 12 -26 years old) are being immunized for free.

A new study by the National Cancer Institute has revealed that a seaweed extract called carrageenan (derived from red algae that strongly inhibits HPV from attaching to human cells, preventing it from entering and infecting the cells) can prevent HPV. Please comment.

That's very interesting. It's very much a research setting at the moment. By inserting it into the vagina, it stops the infection. But it's like a condom, you have to use it every time. It doesn't make the infection go away, it just blocks the infection.

I heard it's also a lubricant.

It only works by trapping the virus every time. It's not like you take it once and then get protection, unlike the vaccine where you administer it and you get lifetime protection.

Critics say clinical studies are engineered to succeed and that real-world results would be the real gauge. How true is this observation?

The trials were conducted really to show that the vaccine was safe and effective and that's what gets licensing of the trials. Once it does go out to the real world, things may be different but there are monitoring mechanisms in place in many countries to see the effectiveness. Out of 10 million doses injected already in Northern America, there's a very close monitoring of safety profiles and side effects, and the monitoring has really shown no significant problems with side effects.

A breastfeeding romance novel

By Julia Navasero

MOTHERS ARE ALWAYS THE strength and light of a home, and the embodiment of love. This sense of love is shown in what a woman does, with passion in aspects of life, most especially in breastfeeding her child. The mother's best interest is for a healthy and secured future for the child given this very act. Every nutrient that the infant takes is a milestone of helping her child be equipped in his first breath of life. From the moment the child latches on to his mother's breast to feed, the child finds comfort and serenity.

Tragically in this day and age, mothers of any social stature seem to be pushed by catchy and transparently cheery commercials with their own brand mascots and musical jingles to buy formula milk instead of giving breast milk. They seem to just shrug a shoulder about it and not bother about the payback that breastfeeding can really aid children more than you'll ever know.

For supporters

To continue the breastfeeding movement, the Department of Health (DoH)/World Health Organization launched "Bukal sa Dibdib" by Maia Jose. This 138-page book is dedicated to supporters of breastfeeding. And hopefully, according to Health Secretary Dr. Francisco Duque III, "this book will inspire mothers to get back to the culture of breastfeeding."

"…Mayang, the heroine is a positive role model as she faces various life challenges—as a woman, and as an empowered individual. This work in print is another valuable addition to the treasure chest of knowledge and practice that would promote, protect and defend human rights—sexual and reproductive rights among them—of every Filipino woman, and young person," writes Suneeta Mukherjee, representative of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities.

Maia Jose
Maia Jose
Bukal Sa Dibdib
kal Sa Dibdib

Complementary

"Some may think that romance and infant breastfeeding are not very compatible concepts. They are, in fact, very complementary because genuine romance, after all, is about creating a loving family in which infant breastfeeding is a beautiful and natural development," says Dr. Jean-Marc Olivé, former WHO country representative in the Philippines.

"Bukal sa Dibdib" is a breastfeeding romance novel written by Maia Jose, a well-known romance author in the Philippines. Since 1992, she has over 90 best-selling romance paperback titles. "Bukal sa Dibdib" is now being distributed by DOH/WHO to communities, health centers and mothers.

Improved health for better life behind bars

THE UNITED NATIONS REPORT ON HUman rights practices released last year reveals that jails in the country were overcrowded, fell short of basic infrastructure and provided prisoners with inadequate food. It adds that the lack in potable water and poor ventilation in jails have been causing health problems among prisoners including minors.

With majority of the prisoners belonging to the poorest of the poor and considered as among the most neglected in the society, PHAPCares Foundation, an affiliate of the Pharmaceutical and Healthcare Association of the Philippines, joins hands with the Catholic Bishop Conference of the Philippines Episcopal Commission on Prison Pastoral Care (CBCP-ECPPC) in helping improve the plight of Filipino prisoners.

Total medicine needs

"PHAPCares is mandated to donate to all poor and disadvantaged Filipinos, including prisoners as in the case of CBCP's program. CBCP has a solid and holistic program for prisoners which includes healthcare," says Glecy Cuenco, executive director of PHAPCares Foundation. "But because they have budget constraints, CBCP cannot always provide for the total medicine requirements of the prisoners under their care."

CBCP-ECPPC executive secretary Rodolfo Diamante says insufficient government provisions for the prisoners resulted in subhuman living and health conditions for the detainees. Worse, the prevalent apathy of people in general has tolerated the difficulties of those behind bars.

"The basic necessities of life should be available to all irregardless of their status in life whether they have committed wrong. Prisoners are deprived of that," Diamante says.

The Bureau of Corrections, which runs the seven national prisons in the country, accounts for a total of 33,000 prisoners under their custody while records from the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology shows that there are close to 60,000 detainees under their care.

Diamante observes that prisoners are usually prone to suffer from skin diseases, fever, coughs, colds, diarrhea and hypertension. Sick prisoners are also not isolated from the rest of the detainees, making all of them susceptible to acquiring communicable diseases. Just as there is a need for doctors and health workers, Diamante stresses the constant requirement not only for essential medicines but ethical (or prescription) medicines as well.

Anti-TB drugs

Responding to the call for more medicines, PHAPCares is eyeing a long-term partnership with CBCP-ECPPC to ensure a continuing flow of donations to prisoners nationwide. Recently, PHAPCares successfully distributed essential medicines and anti-tuberculosis medicines to prisoners through the CBCP-ECPPC.

In the meantime, PHAPCares is campaigning for additional anti-TB medicine donations from pharmaceutical and healthcare member institutions. This, after the CBCP-ECPPC appealed for more anti-TB drugs for about 100 prisoners at the Ihawig Prison and Penal Farm in Palawan. Recipients of the first batch of anti-TB drugs attest to the effectiveness of the donated medicines, prompting them to request for another batch of medication.

"It is a big contribution if PHAPCares can fill in the gaps in terms of the required medicines for our sick inmates. That is a very big help because the government is not able to provide or the government is not able to meet the medical requirements of the prisoners," Diamante explains.

Saving Malang's sight

CAREPLUS

Christine F. Liwanag

THE MAN'S WORK IS A REflection of his humility and positive outlook in life. World-renowned Filipino painter Mauro Malang Santos has a keen eye for beauty and a rare gift of being able to transform even the mundane to true works of art. With women and the urban landscape as his favorite subjects, the prolific neo-realist painter romances the canvass with his playful use of light and shadow using a kaleidoscope of colors rendered in abstract form with a uniquely Filipino touch.

In 2006, with Malang nearing his eighth decade of life, cataract threatened to rob the Filipino icon of his vision. He went to the International Eye Institute at St. Luke's Medical Center where the Institute's Director Dr. Noel Chua recommended outpatient cataract surgery.

Cataract removal

In a cutting-edge procedure called phacoemulsification, Dr. Chua used ultrasonic vibration to shatter and break up the cataract in Malang's eye into small pieces, thereby making its removal easier. He then implanted a flexible intraocular lens to replace the lens in Malang's eye that had been clouded over by the cataract. To eliminate the need for stitches, Dr. Chua used a flexible intraocular lens that can be implanted through a very small incision. The 30-minute procedure was done under local anesthesia with Malang awake throughout the operation.

The ultramodern procedure restored Malang's vision and, after two weeks, enabled him to resume his normal painting activities. The artist was so impressed with the results of the surgery that he returned to St. Luke's and successfully underwent the same procedure for his other eye.

"Now, I can paint even without my eyeglasses," Malang says.

Improving healthcare

St. Luke's International Eye Institute is another example of how technology and constant monitoring of treatment outcomes can dramatically improve healthcare. It is staffed by experts extensively trained in the latest ophthalmologic and microsurgical procedures and who are equipped with the most modern instruments and apparatus.

Combining topnotch expertise with state-of-the-art equipment, the Institute is able to deliver superior eye care and novel treatments for a wide range of conditions in patients of all ages. In 2000, the Philippines' first tear duct laser surgery was performed at the Institute, the only facility in the country where the procedure is performed regularly. Recently, the country's first ex-vivo expansion of limbal stem cell transplant was also done at the Institute.

St. Luke's International Eye Institute is also the first and only such facility in the country that maintains a comprehensive Cataract Databank to continuously enhance the safety and accuracy of cataract surgery outcomes. The information culled from the databank helps improve the efficacy and safety of future cataract surgeries.

Image model

After St. Luke's doctors and technology helped restore his vision, Malang helped St. Luke's come up with a marketing communication approach that truly "connected" with the Filipino public. The talented artist had graciously agreed to be the "image model" in our recent campaign to introduce a more comprehensive and modern International Eye Institute.

A recipient of many awards including the Ten Outstanding Young Men of the Philippines in 1963, Malang and his winning ways may have rubbed off on our campaign. During the recently held 2nd Integrated Marketing Communication Effectiveness Awards, St. Luke's won two awards, one of which was the Best New Service Brand Introduction award for the International Eye Institute campaign.

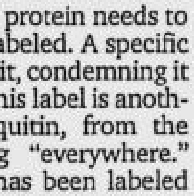
In celebration of its 20th anniversary, St. Luke's International Eye Institute is hosting the 1st SLMC-IEI International Eye Symposium today until tomorrow at Edsa Shangri-La in Mandaluyong City, with world-renowned experts in ophthalmology as speakers.

For feedback, please e-mail the Healthcare Technology and Outcomes Information Bureau at inquire@htoib.com.

MALANG with Dr. Noel Chua

Destruction can save lives, 2004 Nobel Prize winner says

EUREKA!



Queena N. Lee-Chua

WE HEAR ABOUT DNA, SUCH AS THE Human Genome Project or genetically modified foods. On TV, "CSI (Crime Scene Investigation)" and "Soco (Scene of the Crime Operatives)" use DNA techniques to fight crime. But many scientists are now moving from DNA to proteins, says David Peralta, lecturer at the Ateneo de Manila University Chemistry Department. If DNA is a code, then proteins are the message the code unravels. Here Peralta relates the intriguing role proteins play in our lives.

When we hear "protein," we usually think of meat. But proteins are more than the flesh we eat. They are present in living things—animals, plants, even viruses. We have heard that the genetic codes of humans and chimpanzees are 98 percent similar. Moreover, humans all share the human genome. So why do we differ in looks and abilities? Why do we have different growth patterns and diseases? The simplest answer would be that the proteins being created by our bodies based on our codes differ. The times, locations and conditions in which the proteins are produced differ, even though the code is generally the same.

Proteins have many uses: for structure and motion (hair and biceps), for energy (muscles), for protection (mucus formed during colds), as substance-factories (we all grow from a single cell), and for catalysis, speeding up thousands of reactions happening in our bodies (energy from eating).

The kiss of death

Several Nobel Prizes have been awarded to studies involving proteins. In 2004, the Chemistry Nobel went to Doctors Aaron Ciechanover, Avram Hershko and Irwin Rose for their discovery of "ubiquitin-mediated protein degradation." Simply put, they studied how and why proteins are broken down by cells.

In the past, many researchers focused on explaining how and why proteins are produced. But these three scientists went against the flow and decided to study protein destruction instead.

Cells are efficient factories where proteins are created and broken down at very fast rates. When a protein needs to be broken down, it is labeled. A specific molecule is attached to it, condemning it to death, so to speak. This label is another protein called ubiquitin, from the Latin *ubique* meaning "everywhere." Only when a protein has been labeled several times do waste disposal machines recognize and destroy it, chopping it up into small pieces. The ubiquitin label is released again by the protein shortly before its death.

But why do proteins need to die in the first place? Well, sometimes hard-headed proteins stay and continue their functions even if they should not be there anymore, leading to dreadful effects. For instance, plants need to reject their own pollen because self-pollination leads to a decline in diversity and eventually, extinction.

Proteins are linked to disease. When cells divide, pairs of chromosomes must separate with the help of a cutting protein. If they do not separate, or there is incorrect division, miscarriage may occur, or an extra chromosome may appear, leading to Down's syndrome. Or when proteins don't fold correctly, they can lead to cystic fibrosis.

Certain proteins may lead to more cell division—an ill effect in the case of cancer cells. But other proteins prevent the spread of cancer. The survival of these good and bad proteins and the chances of cancer depend on the workings of the ubiquitin pathway. Everywhere we have protein activity that can go wrong, we have the ubiquitin-mechanism present, hence its name.

Nobel Prize winner in RP

Dr. Ciechanover, based in Haifa, Israel, earned his Doctor's degrees in Medicine and Biology at the University of Jerusalem and the Israel Institute of Technology (Technicon) respectively. He is a Professor at the Center for Cancer and Vascular Biology and the Rappaport Faculty of Medicine and Research Institute at the Technicon.

Next year, Dr. Ciechanover and other Nobel Laureates and scientists will come to the Philippines to share their thoughts about science, society and innovation. To join the Tenth Eurasia Conferences on Chemical Sciences at the Philippine International Convention Center on Jan. 7-11, 2008, visit http://eurasiachem10.philippinechem.org or email eurasiachem10@yahoo.com.

Travel group bats for tourism incentives

PTAA rues lack of gov't support

By Ronnel W. Domingo

DAVAO CITY—AN UMBRELLA ORGANIZATION of local travel agencies called on Congress to pass the so-called Tourism Bill which would create "tourism enterprise zones," while lamenting the lack of tangible support from government.

Jose C. Clemente III, president of the Philippine Travel Agencies Association (PTAA), said the group felt that the government was merely "paying lip service" to the industry despite the touted successes of the Department of Tourism in its campaign to increase visitor arrivals recently.

The PTAA, which groups about 490 travel agencies, held on Thursday its general membership meeting at the Marco Polo hotel in this largest city of Mindanao.

Before the meeting started, Clemente told reporters the industry needed such a law, which industry players believe would immediately answer their urgent concerns.

He said that aside from the creation of tourism ecozones, the Tourism Bill provides for the the reorganization and rationalization of the Department of Tourism; assures funding for the DOT and its attached agencies; and gives incentives for the importation of infrastructure and related material for tourism facilities.

Marciano Ragaza, PTAA's immediate past president, said that Malacañang had actually certified the measure as a priority bill "but nobody actually pushed for its passage."

"In fact, the Department of Finance objected to it because it felt that the incentives provided in the bill were too generous," said Ragaza. "How can a department object to what the President certified as a priority bill?"

Also, Clemente said the bill, which was approved by the Senate, lacked support in the House of Representatives.

"We strongly pushed for the bill in the hope that it would be passed before the previous Congress adjourned," he added. "But Congress did not even achieve a quorum when the bill was up for plenary discussion."

"This clearly showed that some people in government do not really understand this industry and what it is bringing to the table," the PTAA chief said.

He said tourism was, in fact, an industry through which a country could bring in much revenue in a relatively short period of time compared to manufacturing and other enterprises.

Further, Clemente said PTAA supports moves to implement an "open skies" policy without which the growth of tourism was hampered.

Travel agencies have been forced to turn away visitors despite strong demand , for Philippine destinations because of the lack of flights to the country, he said.

Clemente added that landing costs and other aviation fees must be lowered and red tape reduced so that more airlines would be encouraged to serve Philippine routes.

TOURISTS relax along the world-famous Boracay beachline. The PTAA says tourism could grow much faster with government support.

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SM expands planned mall in Naga City

By Juan Escandor Jr.
Inquirer Southern Luzon

NAGA CITY—THE BUILDING OF AN SM branch in this city has been delayed after the country's largest mall chain decided to redesign the establishment from a "hypermart" to a "full mall."

Glen Ang, assistant vice president for SM South Region, told the local Sangguniang Panlunsod that the change of design conforms with their expectations that the city stands as the center of trade in the province.

Ang explained that the original hypermart designed for Naga City branch would have carried 10-20 percent nonfood items with the balance being food items.

But he said that, upon review, it was decided that the hypermart be redesigned into a "full mall" where the establishment is divided into separate sections for food, nonfood items, furniture, accessories and other items.

Ang revealed that the Naga SM Mall, which will start construction in the fourth quarter of 2008, will be a two-story building with a total area of 46,000 square meters.

Detailing further the actual floor area of the mall, he said the first and second floors will have an equal floor areas of 21,000 sq. m. each.

Ang added they would also construct a separate building at the back of the mall, which is an 18,000-sq. m. car park.

He said the establishment will occupy a total area of 61,000 sq. m. in a leased lot at the Central Business District II.

Engineer Anthony Paule, chief designer of the SM for 45 years, said it would take 10 months to complete the construction of the building, in addition to three months spent for the preparation of documents and permits for its construction.

Paule said the change of design of the proposed SM branch here came after top management saw the need to provide complete services to the city like the branches in Davao, Lucena, Lipa and Batangas.

Ang did not give specific months for the construction and completion of the mall.

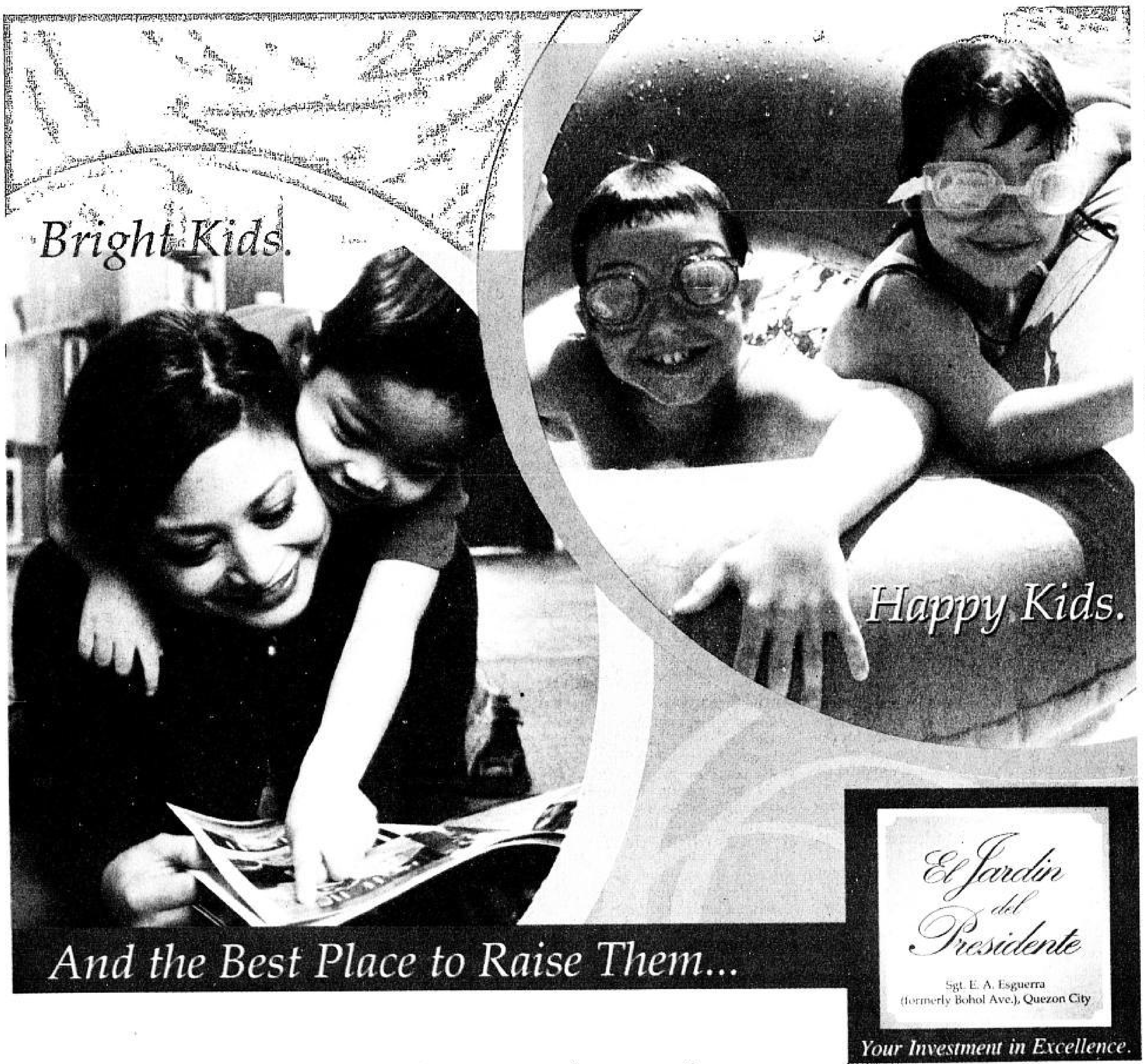
Meanwhile, Tarlac City Mayor Genaro Mendoza has denied reports that the construction of an SM mall on a 33,996-sq. m. lot in Barangay San Roque in this city is already a "done deal."

The project is facing opposition from various sectors which claim that the giant mall's entry in the city would threaten local business establishments, and that its construction on the proposed site would cause flood and traffic problems.

"If you look at the records, there is no mayor's permit yet and the business application is not yet approved because we are still consulting with the people," Mendoza said.

He said before the business can be issued a mayor's permit to operate, the management of SM should first secure important requirements such as an environmental clearance certificate from the Environmental Management Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

What the city government has, Mendoza said, is an application by the Chinese-Filipino owner of the proposed site for its reclassification from an agricultural to a commercial area. *With a report from Russell Arador, Inquirer Central Luzon*



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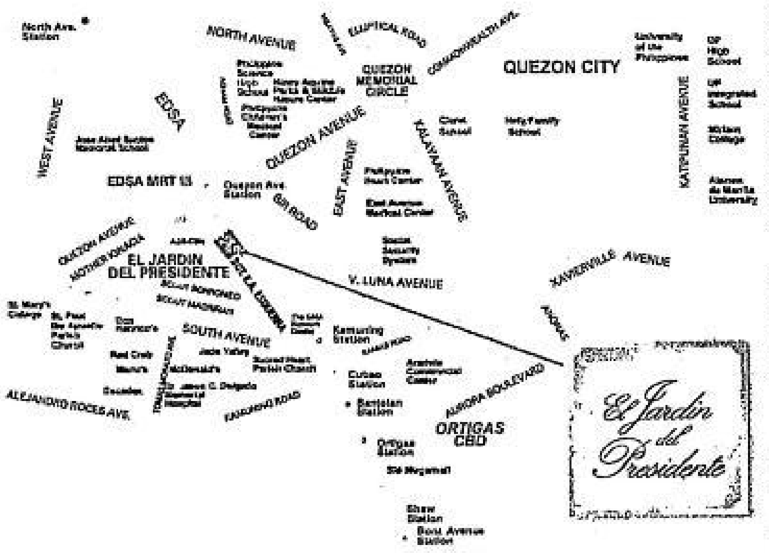

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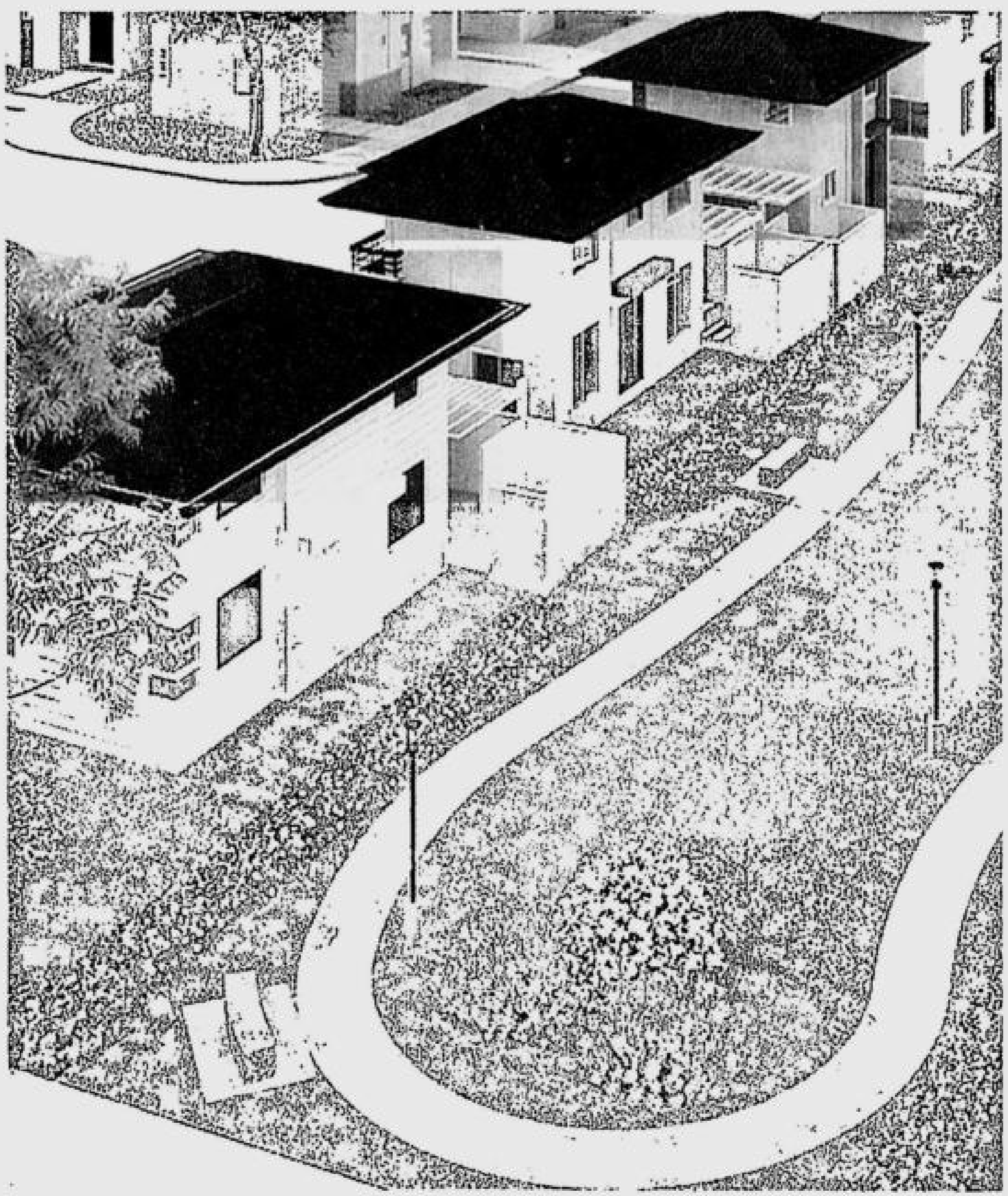
Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

Mammoth urban hub
to showcase 3 Ayala residential brands



AVIDA Setting's green ribbons and courtyards incorporate nature in residential living.

By Tessa R. Salazar

THE THREE RESIDENTIAL brands of Ayala Land will locate in the soon-to-rise urban hub Nuvali in Laguna, hyped as the new gateway of Region 4.

The magnitude of Nuvali—a planned mixed-use hub that will utilize urban designs and "green" developments—is nothing short of impressive. It's eight times that of the Makati Central Business District at 1,600 hectares, and it is expected to play a significant role in the economic destiny of Region 4 and in Manila. The centerpiece of all this will be the residential companies of Ayala Land—Ayala Land Premier, Community Innovations and Avida.

The residential developments, however, will just be one of the components of Nuvali. There will also be commercial and retail districts and educational institutions. Xavier School, for instance, will be operational here by 2012.

A city all its own

Nuvali, in many ways, can be considered a city all its own.

This will be a "city" with an integrated mix of residential, retail and office areas. People can walk, bike or take "water taxis" to most places within the community. The man-made lake would also serve as a fire reserve for the area.

Rex Mendoza, senior vice president of Ayala Land, said Nuvali would be the biggest development of Ayala Land and most seamless in terms of integration. "It's really the whole concept of live, work, play, not in the context of selling it but in the context of designing it."

"It's a new metropolis. We feel that over time, it will stand out on its own. So it's going to be self nurturing in the end. For the moment, people will still make decisions as to commuting, staying in that place, but later on it will be self sustaining," Mendoza envisions.

3 residential areas

Abrio will be Ayala Land Premier property within Nuvali. This will be followed by Treveia, a Community Innovations development. Avida Settings would be the third residential district. These residential areas are described as "open but very exclusive."

Mendoza said that all three will have clear target markets. He cited Abrio, which will offer its own at P10,000 per square meter, with an 800-sq-m minimum.

"It's huge, right? And you also get a road network the size of Ayala Avenue with pedestrian-friendly walkways, tree-lined streets and bikelanes."

During ALI's Sept. 26 presscon, Mendoza said "this is going to be the project where we will be having the greatest tree ratio. We really want to make this very green. We're going to be planting."

The property, which is just off the Sta. Rosa-Tagaytay road near Paseo de Sta. Rosa commercial center, has been acquired by Ayala Land since 1993 and is owned in partnership with the Yulo family.

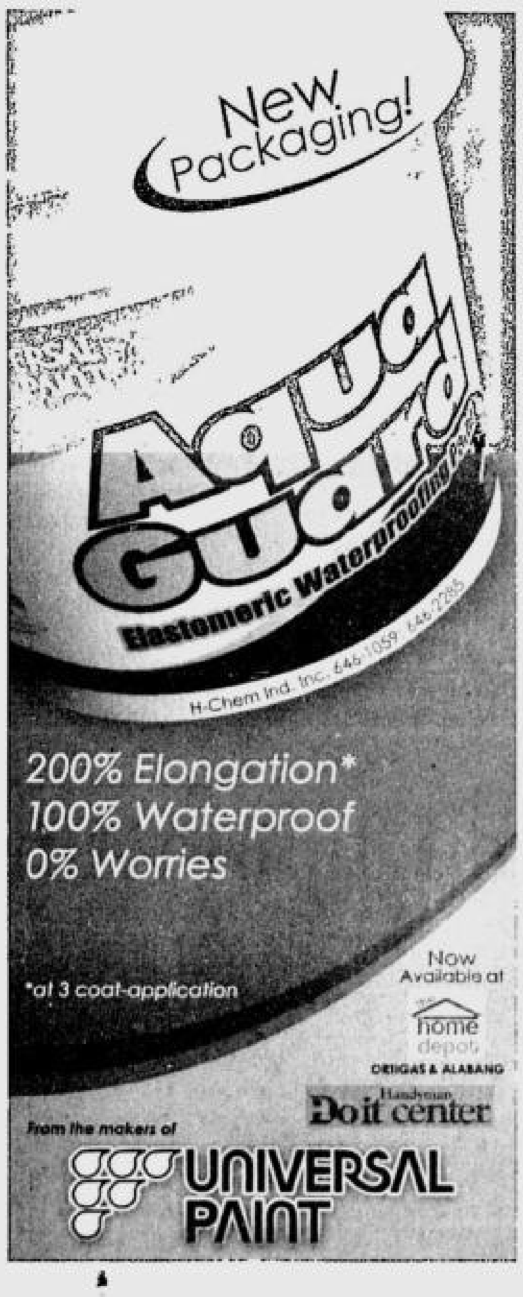
Outside Nuvali are other existing Ayala subdivisions such as Sta. Rosa Estates, West Grove and Verdana Homes Mamplasan of Community Innovations.

Market needs

Community Innovations' Treveia will be launched mid-October 2007. Dan Abando, president of Community Innovations, said "through the years, we have been taught by Ayala Land to give due diligence to the details to what the market needs—assessing their lifestyle, behavior—so Ayala will be able to provide a product that will be appropriate for the market."

When asked about the physical challenge on the design of the property, Abando replied: "If there are any physical challenges, we've overcome them already. I think the challenge now is to be able to introduce new products and to educate the market on how we want the sustainability thrust of Nuvali to be implemented."

Nuvali will be developed by Ayala Land, the same developers of the Makati CBD, Bonifacio Global City, Alabang and the Cebu Business Park.



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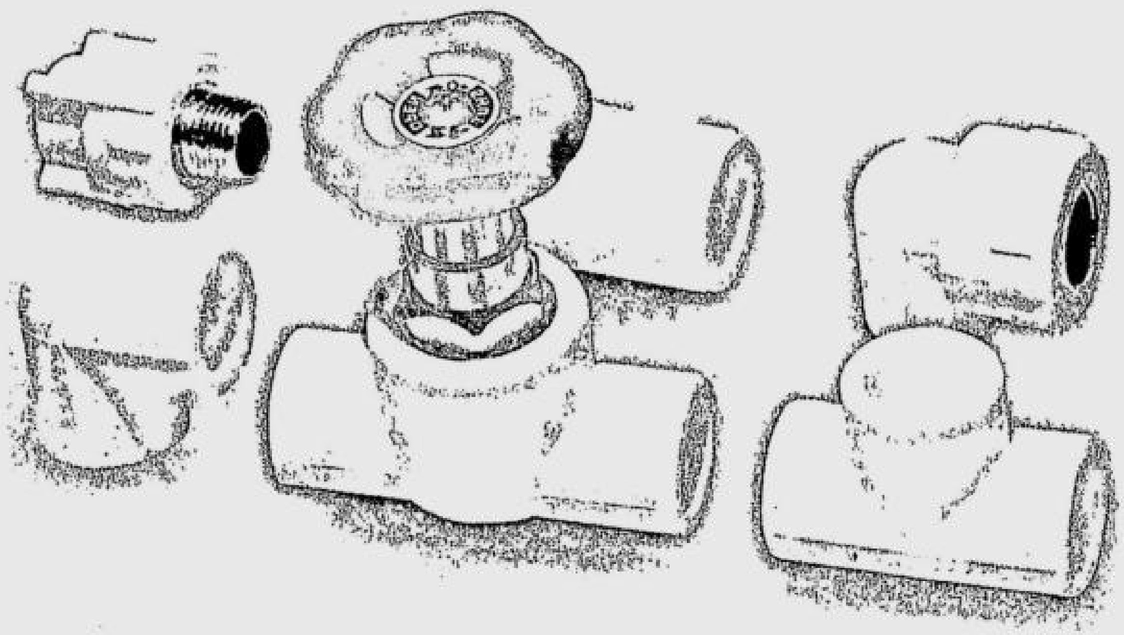

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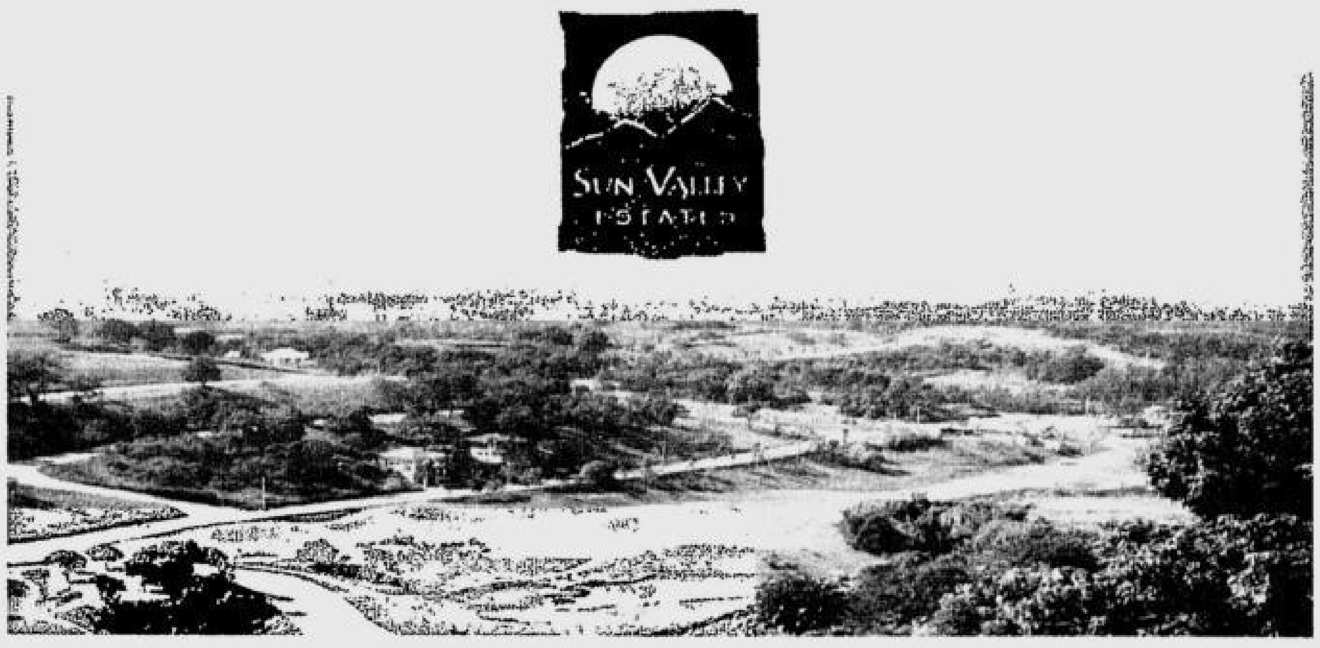

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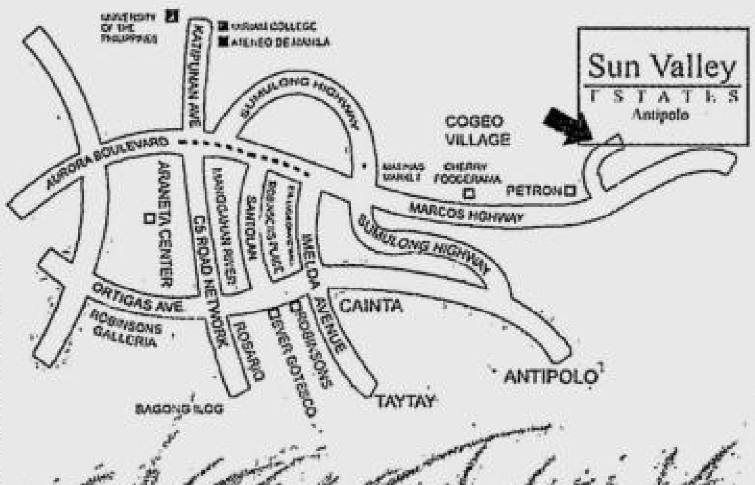

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Showroom highlights changing face of bathrooms

ELEGANT line highlighted in Villeroy & Boch's Source-Flow I-hole mixer

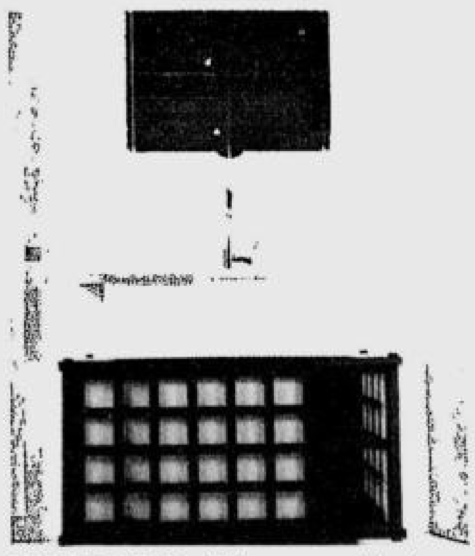
By Charles E. Buban

CONSUMERS these days are increasingly yearning for a "feel-good" space in their homes—an area where they could not only nourish their body but also their soul. For them, such a place could only be their bathroom.

"The bathroom has indeed come a long way from being purely functional. It is now being viewed as a place of relaxation, and consumers are investing more time and money to create a place of seclusion and escape," promised Steve Courso, GM of Dornbracht, manufacturer of high-quality bathroom fittings and accessories from Germany.

Dornbracht is among the high-end lines that recently become available in the Philippines through a globally acclaimed sanitation ware distributed by Hamburg International Sales Corp.

DORNBRACT and Villeroy & Boch shower set collection on display at the Makati showroom


VILLEROY & Boch Nagano washbasin with vanity unit

VILLEROY & Boch's Lulu lines like this shower set features metal fittings and accessories, which are available in either polished chrome or platinum matte finish.

Aside from Dornbract, Hamburg International Sales' newly opened showroom in Makati (ground floor of BMC Centre, Paseo de Magallanes) feature other top-of-the-line brands like Blanco, Villeroy & Boch and Keuco.

Carefully selected

"We have carefully selected some of the world's best sanitary ware ranges. These brands offer the best in terms of functionality, durability and beauty," said Hamburg International Sales CEO Horst Kessler von Sprengeisen.

He cited as an example Villeroy & Boch's 2007 collections that offer pioneering concept designs for daily wellbeing and optimum rest.

These latest collections from Villeroy & Boch promise to set strong interior design trends: private bathroom transforms into an all-round room for pampering the mind, body and soul.

In Villeroy & Boch's Lulu line of bath fixtures and accessories for example (which includes everything from a drinking glass to towel holders to a single-lever basin mixer with raised base), the metal fittings and accessories are available in either a polished chrome or platinum matte finish, which successfully combines the functions of a beauty salon, fitness room and dressing room.

80 years

Another interesting brand that Hamburg International Sales is carrying is Blanco, a German brand that has been around for more than 80 years.

It offers several sink designs in attractive colors, plus a wide selection of good quality mixer taps, waste separation systems and shining accessories.

By mixing simple modern forms with traditional spirit and grace, Keuco is another German brand of bathroom furniture that bridges eras with a timeless style.

"The brand is committed to design and quality that customers can surely rely on for years. Trends and fashion can change but Keuco will remain committed to stylish innovative design," Von Sprengeisen said.

Take for example Keuco's Edition Palais that offer a touch of opulence and elegance from a bygone era, yet able to deliver all the conveniences of contemporary interior design.

Edition Palais uses a sumptuous top quality materials such as porcelain and wood, smooth elegant surfaces with platinum appearance fittings and accessories, and master craftsmanship.

"I believe that it's best to view these collections in our showrooms. Consumers who are renovating their houses or those planning to refurbish their bathroom will discover that a bathroom could also become a place animated by considerations of wellness, style and atmosphere," said Von Sprengeisen.

Be a lot closer to your dream home at CrownAsia's Valenza

EVERYONE DREAMS OF FINDING A HOME that complements their lifestyle, a suitable place to begin their families, a comfortable yet conveniently accessible sanctuary from the workplace, and a veritable investment for their hard-earned money. Keeping these dreams in mind, CrownAsia has carefully chosen the highly developed and still fast-progressing Laguna to become the home of its thriving 10-hectare exclusive property, Valenza, located right in the heart of Sta. Rosa. This quaint Italian-themed community is where style and practicality converge in one grand design.

BEGIN your own family and watch your children grow in the secured community of Valenza.

A proud affiliate of Vista Land & Lifescapes Inc., CrownAsia is the country's pioneer developer of master-planned, themed enclaves with befitting style while remaining within the reach of Filipino families. Vista Land is the Philippines' largest homebuilder offering homes for all income segments and catering to different lifestyles across the country.

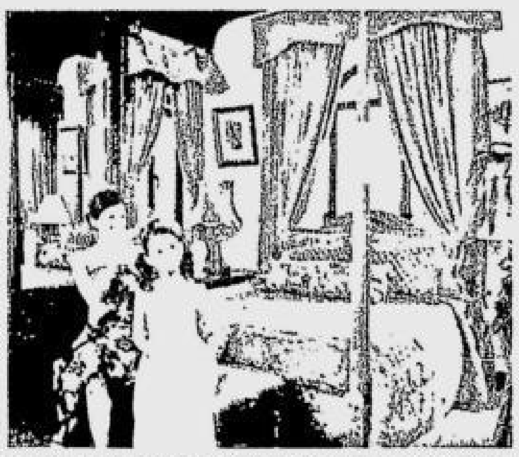
Suitable home

Everyone can find a suitable home at Valenza, whether you're single and intent on building a successful career, a young couple beginning a new life, or a family in need of ample space to grow. Now, lots-only packages are offered to give more families the opportunity to acquire a property of their own and start building an Italian-inspired residence tailor-fit to your unique lifestyle and specific living requirements.

The minimum 121-square-meter lot-only package at P916,726 is made more attainable through a monthly amortization of as low as P5,665. With a limited number of home and lot and lot-only packages totaled at 300, residents are assured of exclusivity and a generous expanse of greens.

As a lived-in community, you can spend afternoons visiting with neighbors while your kids can frolic around Valenza's secure grounds with other children. The neighborhood will feature lifestyle amenities and facilities for everyday recreation such as a multipurpose hall for gatherings and private functions, swimming pool, playing courts and children's playground.

Good location


PICTURE a relaxed life of comfort and styling awaiting you.

Soon, Valenza will have its own commercial area for the residents' shopping convenience. Meanwhile, a number of commercial complexes are already found in Laguna like SM Sta. Rosa, Robinsons Sta. Rosa, Rustan's, and Paseo de Sta. Rosa.

Children can get the best education from top institutions nearby like the Brent, Don Bosco, St. Scholastica, and De La Salle University. There are also neighboring medical facilities such as the Calamba Medical Center, Calamba Doctor's Hospital, and Southern Luzon Medical Center & Hospital.

As the first province found south of Metro Manila, one can quickly get to and from the business and commercial districts in the metropolis. Alabang is just a few minutes away. From the South Luzon Expressway, take Sta. Rosa Exit and reach Valenza in 10 minutes.

With its tranquil environs, booming economy and strategic road network, Sta Rosa becomes a more desirable place to settle down in with the rise of CrownAsia's Valenza. Interested parties may call 873-1614 and 871-8412, or log on to www.crownasia.com.ph.

Mang Leonardo: inspiration to labor

LIVING ARCHITECTURE

Marcos de Guzman Jr.

ONE BENEFIT OF BEING AN architect is being able to interact with people from all walks of life. The challenge is to observe, study and learn their interests and dreams in order to recognize their needs, particularly if they want you to design a home for them.

The gamut of personalities includes the sophisticated CEO to the unschooled laborer. One must familiarize oneself with how people think and how they work so as to understand both their needs and their capacity. For laborers or construction workers, for example, it is good to know their level of skill and enthusiasm for work to be able to maximize their potential. Hearing their stories could likewise be an enriching experience.

MARCOS

One interesting example is someone my father chanced upon while building his chalet in Baguio. He hired a stoneworker named Leonardo Marcos to work in the early stages of construction. But unlike most of the daily-paid laborers, Mang Leonardo seemed to accomplish more than most... despite his handicap.

A good example

Mang Leonardo contracted polio when he was 10 years old. Today, at 40, he cannot use his right hand, so he uses his foot instead. He was born to and raised in a poor family in the Mountain Province where life is not always easy. Like everyone else he has to earn a living, especially since he is married and supports a family.

However, Mang Leonardo may have accomplished more in his lifetime than most of us by being a good example. He continues to be an inspiration for his co-laborers who have no good reason to stay idle after seeing him doing so much work.

Beggars proliferate

Along the roads of Metro Manila, beggars proliferate, most of them healthier than Mang Leonardo. They take advantage of kind-hearted individuals, some of whom are coerced into alms-giving by their persistent knocking on car windows or by sermonizing priests. But are we really helping them by giving? Or are we encouraging them to beg even more and stop working since begging seems more rewarding?

The beggars expose the little babies they tote around to extreme danger. They encourage the scrawniest toddlers to ply their wares amid whizzing traffic. Aren't we doing an injustice to those like Mang Leonardo and millions of Filipinos who are working so hard to make a living, by merely giving to those who choose to remain idle?

During a visit to the depressed areas, you may see many well and able-bodied individuals doing nothing but sharing a mid-morning drink, playing basketball at street corners, or probably engaged in some mischief. Is this the effect of having relatives working abroad? Are these people the recipients of the fruits of someone else's labor?

The Bible in 2Thesalonians10 states that "If anyone is not willing to work, neither should that one eat." The text is too simple to be misinterpreted.

The current construction and real estate boom we are experiencing offers a lot of job opportunities. Although the work is not easy, it is there for those who truly seek it. We need more determined workers like Mang Leonardo. The strength of his will is an inspiration to all.

For comments e-mail to marcosdeguzman@yahoo.com.

Manhattan Garden City launches new 'green' phase

PROPERTY GIANT MEGAWORLD CORP., the country's undisputed leader in residential condominium and business process outsourcing (BPO) building developments, will be launching soon the much-awaited new "green phase" of Manhattan Garden City inside the Araneta Center to be called the Manhattan Parkview Residence.

In a statement, Megaworld Central Properties Inc. president Anthony Charlemagne Yu thanked the investing public and aspiring homeowners for the tremendous success of Manhattan Garden City's first three towers, which are very near sold-out status. He noted that the three-tower Manhattan Parkview will be another "first-of-its-kind" residential building in the long list of the company's pioneering projects due to its tropical landscaping and the use of the innovative green rooftop development concept.

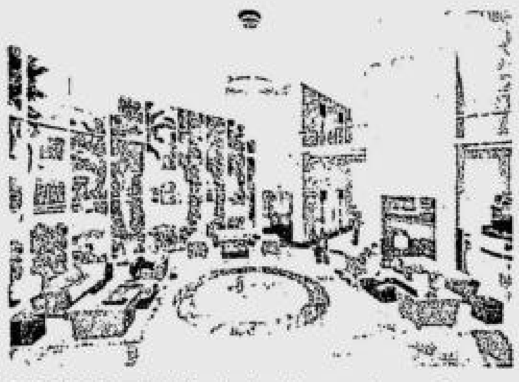
Green rooftop

The green rooftop, Yu said, insulates the building from both heat and cold, promoting energy conservation and improving the level of oxygen in the surrounding area.

"Aside from the benefits it gives to the building, it also greatly contributes to human comfort and health within an urban area like the Araneta Center by reducing urban surface temperatures, storm water runoff and filtering pollutants and carbon dioxide out of the air," Yu pointed out.

The landscaping of Manhattan Parkview, meanwhile, is generally in line with the overall concept of its outdoor development plan, which features a walkable and interconnected area with emphasis on greens and open spaces.

"A lot of people desire a place that provides a natural relief from the stresses of life, and the best place to get this kind of feeling is an outdoor sanctuary that has nature at its best offering—the chance to unwind, rest and rejuvenate. The greens would serve as its medium in achieving this purpose," Yu added.


MANHATTAN Parkview's grand transfer pavilion features a safe and secure hotel-style lobby.

Relaxing experience

Manhattan Parkview's nature park experience is replete with features that ensure a relaxing experience because of its landscape details, accents and water displays at every corner.

The use of tropical plants, with its imposing foliage and wild flowers, makes residents feel like they are out of the city.

Visually, the greeneries also provide a "soft touch" to the hard landscape and serve as screens and buffers to provide privacy for users of outdoor amenities such as the pool, benches, sun decks, trellises, etc.

Easily propagated flowers that come in great varieties and brightness of colors are used to accentuate certain landscape details such as pots and planters.

"Urban dwellers commonly see manicured landscapes, which are artistically shaped or formally laid out. Manhattan Parkview will feature a tropical garden with free-form planting arrangements. This mass tropical planting style creates a micro-environment that gives a natural feel while walking," Yu said.

To experience the beauty of Manhattan Garden City inside and outside of your plush condominium residence, please call 810-3333 or visit www.themanhattangardencity.com.

Seminar on 'Make millions selling to Filipino Americans'

THE SOCIETY OF USA-PHILIPPINES Realty and Enterprises Marketing Networks (Supremnet) will conduct a seminar/workshop on "Make Millions Selling to Filipino Americans" on Oct. 5 at 1 p.m. at Max's Restaurant, 2nd level Gateway, Cubao, Quezon City.

The subject matter is about the new and global selling system (also known as Instant Office Solutions) used by Philippine property developers, Filipino-American realtors, brokers, acquired assets bank officers, government executives, travel and tour specialists, show promoters, herbal distributors, wellness and beauty care providers and allied businesses when selling their projects, products and services to 3 million Filipino-Americans.

The seminar will also discuss the many ways to tap the vast market, including the cost-effective systems to operate a US branch, how to successfully market projects, products and services through techniques applied right from the comfort of Philippine-based offices, strategies to reach the Filipino-American investors, sure-fire methods using the skills of Filipino professionals in the use of Internet-enabled modern networking marketing systems and resources.

The attendees will be taught to "network" with Supremnet's over 200 US licensee-realtor birddogs that are now engaged in promoting and selling Philippine projects.

The principal facilitator-speaker is Edgar T. Pascual, who is based in Los Angeles, California. He wrote the book titled "How to profit from the $27B Filipino-American market."

Pascual is a realtor since 1976, a co-founder of the National Association-Rebap in 1979 and worked as CPA staff auditor with Arthur Andersen-SGV & Co. He also served as computer systems manager of San Miguel Corp. and taught marketing, controllership and systems analysis at the De La Salle University prior to migrating to the United States in 1983. In 1987 he founded the US-based Supremnet International (Society of US-Philippines Realty and Enterprises Marketing Networks), owner of IOS.

Applying ergonomic design into the workplace

DESIGN DIMENSIONS

Isabel Berenguer Asuncion

"ERGONOMICALLY DESIGNED" IS A TAGline used quite commonly in advertisements to explain the features of furniture pieces that function close to the body. But what is "Ergonomics" anyway? And how do we make use of it?

Back then when I had just started working, I had a colleague who was happily swaying her legs and humming a tune as we sat in our meeting room cum lunch room, waiting for our meal to arrive. I hummed along and tried to swing my legs along with hers but my soles just skidded on the floor!

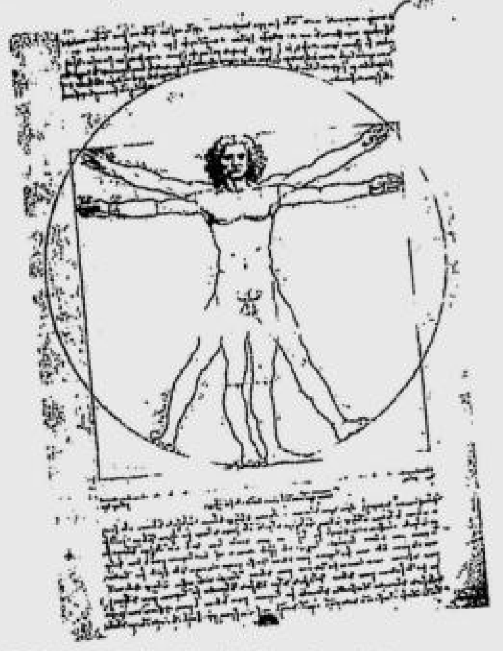
I skipped a beat, looked down and was surprised to see that my legs were longer by almost four inches! I realized that just because my colleague and I had the same height, it did not mean we shared the same body part dimensions. Four inches spelled the difference of how one could—or could not—happily sway legs along with another while sitting on the same bench.

THE XAVER chair from Italy's Sawaya and Moroni looks deceivingly uncomfortable.

Standardizing dimensions

In Leonardo da Vinci's drawing of the "Vitruvian Man, he interprets the image of ideal measure of bodily proportion which was probably his attempt in standardizing dimensions as reference for art and architecture. But that was the ideal man, and unfortunately, real man comes in quite an assortment of shapes and sizes.

In my experience in the design field, I have learned that more attention has to be given to the details of human dimension and proportion than simplistically referring to "standard" dimensions as we were once taught in school or made to believe by the books. Sometimes, an inch or two can spell the difference between comfort and discomfort, function and dysfunction. This is where ergonomics starts.



LEONARDO da Vinci's drawing of the 'Vitruvian Man,' the seemingly perfect but rather false interpretation of the human body's standard proportions.

As we engage in various activities where everything has some form of interaction with our body, we have to be more precise with how we interrelate our various sizes and proportions to everything around us—a chair, a fork, a stair step. The list is endless.

The study of ergonomics—from the Greek words "ergon" meaning work and "nomos" meaning laws—is, in simple terms, designing the job to fit the user. In industrial design and interior design practice, it is meant to maximize production or enjoyment by reducing discomfort to the body.

In various parts of the world, dimensions vary to suit the end user. In Asia, standard kitchen counter heights are roughly five centimeters shorter than those in Europe. In countries like Germany and the Netherlands, they would be five centimeters higher than the rest of Europe, or 10 centimeters higher than ours!

Difference in ergonomics

Age too can make a difference in ergonomics. A younger person's definition of a comfortable sofa would be one he can sink into, while an elderly person will find a more upright backrest with a more elevated seat height more comfortable. Low seats and very reclined backrests just don't work for the elderly since they provide little back support and make getting up more difficult. More so if one had long legs.

The essential laptop so common in today's workplace creates an ergonomic dilemma of sorts: the keyboard location is best set on the lap where the arms and wrists in the proper relaxed position. Unfortunately, this causes the head to be bent for one to see the monitor, which, is ergonomically correct if kept at eye level. The result: shoulder or wrist pain due to bad arm positioning, or neck strain due to prolonged head bending.

So next time you see the tag that says "ergonomically designed," check the merchandise. Like a dress or a suit that fits comfortably and looks great on the wearer, the furniture pieces around you should fit according to your specific needs. Dimensions and proportions are not as standard or universal as we think. Check that the merchandise performs ergonomically for you, and not only for Leonardo's Vitruvian man.

DMCI Homes presents Cypress Towers for OFW market

THE COUNTRY'S "MODERN-DAY heroes"—the overseas Filipino workers (OFWs)—indeed deserve credit for fueling the Philippine economy and paving the way for progressive growth. With remittances reaching US$12.8 billion in 2006, the sector is creating brighter prospects and fulfilling dreams not only for their families but for the whole country as well.

For all their hard work and sacrifice, the OFWs deserve nothing less than the fulfillment of their aspirations, among them property like a home they can call their own. This also embodies an upgrade in lifestyle which they can enjoy after so many years of working in a foreign land, away from their loved ones for long periods of time.

DMCI Homes addresses this need by creating value-laden homes for the OFW and to his or her family. Among their outstanding projects, Cypress Towers which is in progressive Taguig City, presents itself as a viable investment and an ideal home, in a unique resort-like environment strategically located near important districts like Bonifacio Global City, Ortigas and Makati.

Sales network expansion

DMCI Homes marketing director May Precilla revealed that their company is currently expanding its sales network in several countries abroad which host a significant population of Filipinos.

"We have a service channel which is at present training interested brokers from such places as Milan, London, the United States and Dubai. We have launched road shows to entice OFWs and immigrants to help us spread the good word about the value of DMCI Homes properties such as Cypress Towers," she said.

Another advantage of assigning country managers who are based abroad is the assurance of easier communication and more convenient transactions.

EXPERIENCE the ideal cosmopolitan life. Relax and refresh yourself as you take a dip at the swimming pool.

"We are confident of having local flavor when it comes to selling, because sellers based in those locations get to understand more what their market is looking for in terms of their specific housing needs. We are proud to say we have even persuaded brokers there to buy DMCI Homes properties themselves," Precilla added.

Target market

With a combined figure of almost US$1.1 billion per month in remittance sent to the Philippines last year, DMCI Homes is buoyed by the prospects of catering to the needs of this growing market of OFWs and foreign-based buyers.

"Cypress Towers offers two-bedroom units in a prime location and idyllic surroundings that are priced at P2 million and up. Our target market of OFWs can easily afford such a property, because their income allows them to dispense $500 to $600 a month for amortization fees. The smart buyers do realize that they get more value from their investment with DMCI Homes," Precilla explained.

Maria Catherine D. Yulo, DMCI Homes' International Sales head, said their US roadshows are now gaining ground, with buyers investing because they like the project.

"Our thrust really is to provide quality homes and first-rate communities located within key city locations. We attract the market of middle-income homeowners who want either to invest or to retire soon in the Philippines," Yulo noted.

Florante Ofrecio, DMCI Homes' director for sales, also revealed that OFWs and other buyers are convinced about their projects after being reminded of their mother company DMCI's construction heritage. "Our road shows and training sessions explain about DMCI Homes the brand, where we highlight our heritage of over 50 years of construction," Ofrecio said.

With considerations for practicality, convenience and exposure to global trends, OFWs now prefer condominium properties within the city instead of single-detached house and lot units in the suburbs, Precilla noted.

Cypress Towers offers an advantage of space over similar developments. A typical 48-sq-m, two-bedroom unit here is priced the same as a studio or one-bedroom unit in BGC.

For more information on Cypress Towers, please call 888-3333 or visit www.dmcihomes.com today.

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- Treasurer & CFO **Mrs. Teresita C. Millan**, a financial management wizard whose expert handling of the finances of various firms and organizations, including CREBA and its adjuncts, has enabled these institutions to reach new heights.
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- **Atty. Jose D. Lina**, former Senator and Laguna governor, author of the landmark Urban Development and Housing Act (UDHA) and other vital legislation.
- **Atty. Ramon N. Casanova**, the well-loved "grand old man" and longest-serving former Bureau of Lands Director.
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- **Engr. Felino M. Cortez**, former LRA Director for Land Registration, who has distinguished himself with 41 years of expert service to the LRA.

FAKE LAND TITLES

The Economy's Gangrene

By: CREBALAND

Fake or fraudulent land titles have plagued the Philippine economy for years. Over the decades, corruption and the dismal state of the country's land and titling records have provided a fertile ground for fake titles syndicates to thrive.

This has severely eroded the public's faith in a Torrens title which, under the law, is supposed to be the best evidence of land ownership.

Victims of fake titles have suffered losses amounting to billions of pesos. Not even the seasoned real estate industry players have been spared. Courts are clogged with cases and controversies involving land titles or claims.

Many legitimate landowners have either lost their lands to land grabbers with spurious titles, or collectively spent hundreds of millions over the decades in costly litigations just to defend their titles in court. In the Maysilo Estate controversy, for instance, the MWSS lost a portion of its lands in 1992, and the long-held titles of the Manotoks and Aranetas were annulled in a controversial Supreme Court decision in 2005.

Even underprivileged beneficiaries of housing projects have lost their government-awarded titles, through no fault of theirs

Very recently, lot owners of the North Fairview Park Subdivision (now Neapolitan) in Novaliches woke up to the news of a 1999 court order which threatens to divest them of their lands in an apparent land-grabbing attempt.

Did you know.....? Quezon City, Tagaytay, Cavite, Caloocan, and Bulacan are the "hottest spots", being the favorite territories of fake titles syndicates. Other critical areas are the entire National Capital Region (NCR), Rizal, Baguio, Pampanga, Zambales, Palawan, Cebu, Negros Occidental, and Davao

Clearly, fake titles proliferate in areas where the land market is active due to developmental trends.

The syndicates' favorite targets of attack are titles emanating from the vast friar lands known as Haciendas or Estates ~ among others the Diliman, Piedad and Tala Estates in the Quezon City-Caloocan area, Sta. Maria Estate in Bulacan, and Calamba Estate in Laguna. There are 23 such estates throughout the country, totaling some 158,414 hectares.

One of the modus operandi of these syndicates is scouting around for vacant lands, obtaining a copy of the certificate of title covering the land, copying the textual information in that certificate onto a stolen or counterfeit blank form (but indicating a different registered owner), undertaking "saksak-bunot" in connivance with Register of Deeds personnel, then peddling the spurious but seemingly genuine certificate to unsuspecting buyers or lenders.

Another common practice is to pose as the owner of the vacant land and apply for title reconstitution using fraudulent supporting documents.

Generally, a fake title is one that was simply manufactured out of nowhere. The form used for the certificate may either be counterfeit (printed by unauthorized parties) or a stolen/pilfered genuine form. In either case the contents are fictitious.

A fraudulent title is one where, for instance, the form used may be genuine and registration was effected, but prior to the registration the approved survey plan may have been surreptitiously altered to increase the size of the land. Or registration was obtained using a spurious or falsified deed of conveyance.

An irregular title is one which may not be fake or fraudulent, but where, for instance, capital gains taxes were not paid, or some formalities or requirements for registration and issuance were not complied with. The irregularities may or not be curable, depending on the applicable provisions of law

A defective title is one in which, for instance, when plotted or projected against an official map, the land is shown to be floating at sea. Or when the title says the land is located in Lipa, but when plotted, it is shown to be within Calamba. Or the land encroaches on another titled property. Depending on an analysis of the records, a defective title may, or may not, turn out to be fake or fraudulent.

There are many other instances or indicia of spuriousness, fraudulence, irregularities or defects. The question is *Would you know how to detect them?*

Are banks immune to fake titles? Many Supreme Court cases reveal that banks, despite their vaunted "due diligence", have not been immune to fake titles. The various disclaimers in the auction of bank ROPOAs indicate the banks' uncertainty as to the integrity of the titles in their inventories

The frightening question is: How much of the banking system's collateral inventory is covered by fake/fraudulent titles? Equally frightening is the question: ***If banks are not immune to fake titles, what of the ordinary buyer or investor who is not as well-versed in title verification?***

Interviews with bank officers revealed the following:

- Title verification by banks is conducted by appraisers and/or credit investigators (CIs) who are neither lawyers nor geodetic engineers.
- Such verification normally involves only (a) a trace-back at the Register of Deeds (RD), (b) obtaining a tax clearance, and (c) conducting ocular inspection;
- Banks lack technical capability to undertake accurate technical analysis of land titles and survey plans; and
- Instances of collusion between the borrower and the appraiser/CI have been discovered

This limited title verification process used to suffice under the jurisprudential doctrine of buyer or mortgagee in good faith. However, from a study of decided cases in the last 2 decades, the Supreme Court ~ perhaps due to increased incidence of land grabbing and title faking ~ appears to have been veering towards requiring a much greater degree of caution and diligence, considering that (1) what is at stake is the stability of the banking system, and (2) the monies lent out by banks largely belong to the public

In-depth studies also reveal that the limited verification by banks, stringent though it may be compared to that of an ordinary buyer or other entities, is largely insufficient in determining the following

- Is the certificate of title genuine?
- Are the titles traced at the RD the result of "saksak-bunot" or not? The records in the entire history of the title cannot be found in the RD alone, but are dispersed in various agencies and regional offices involved in the entire titling process. But since the usual verification process is focused on the RD, this is also the frontline of "saksak-bunot operations".
- Is the land subjected to ocular inspection really the land described in the title, or did the loan applicant point the appraiser to a different land? Is the land really part of an originally decreed/titled land? Were the subdivisions/consolidations throughout its history technically accurate and validly effected?
- Was the OCT that emanated either from an administrative patent or judicial decree validly issued? Were the transfers down the line validly or regularly effected? Are all the title records consistent with each other, and consistent with historical land records, laws and regulations?
- Is the title free of encroachment or overlapping, fatal closure error or other technical defects, double titling, falsification, fraud, or tampering?
- Is the borrower really the registered owner, or merely an impostor?
- ***Can the title withstand judicial scrutiny when attacked?***

Malignancy. Land is a primary economic resource. Practically all human activity ~ economic, social or otherwise ~ are land-based, and land development for various economic activities is the number one economic pump primer

However, the flow of investment capital into land development activities is dependent on the integrity of a Torrens title, and the stability of an economic enterprise anchored on land largely depends on the absence of land ownership controversy.

The attainment of Government's priority developmental goals ~ mass housing, Ecozone development, agricultural infrastructure development, tourism, manufacturing, and others ~ primarily hinges on the direction, pace and level of land development activity which, in turn, hinge on the authenticity of Torrens titles

Prior to undertaking all these activities, first, a suitable parcel of land must be identified; and second, the integrity of title to that land must be established so that ownership issues that may destabilize the investment may be resolved beforehand.

This is why a Lot Plan, and the certified true copy of the Torrens title for the lot, are both required in the application for a development permit or building construction permit among others

The malignant impact of fake titles over the entire economic spectrum should thus be readily apparent. Their proliferation has made it difficult to market real property, whether to investors, buyers or lenders. Land transactions ~ and consequently, land development activities ~ proceed at a retarded pace due to lack of knowledge and extreme difficulty in verifying the reliability of titles

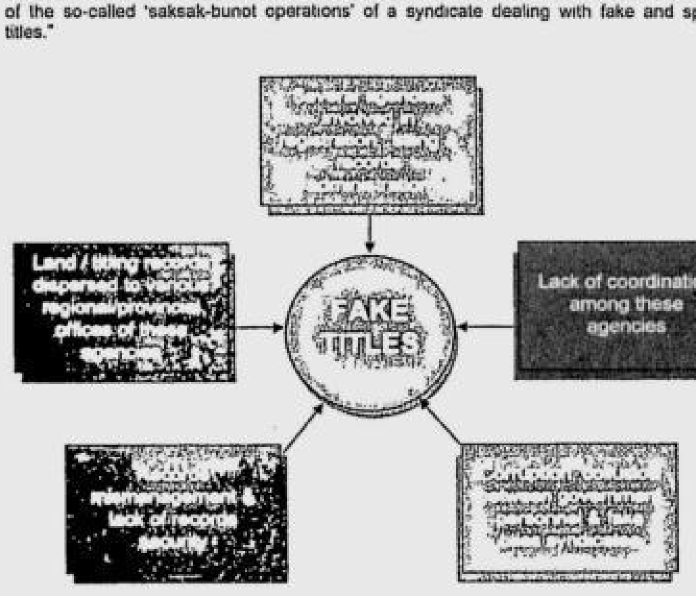
Widely publicized land scams have made the market cynical, even when presented a certified true copy of the title to the property.

The specter of fake titles also seriously impairs credit availment, to the detriment of otherwise productive enterprises largely dependent on bank financing. The risk factor is perceived to be one of the main reasons for the high loan loss provision requirement imposed by the Bangko Sentral upon banks, which affects the credit supply. It also appears to be the reason for the abnormally low appraisal and loan values given to real estate collateral particularly in the case of non-prime borrowers, which defeats the purpose of banking. And the increased costs of title verification on the part of banks translate to higher lending rates and bank charges, which many SMEs find unaffordable and thus a deterrent to business formation and expansion that the economy badly needs.

Thus, all told, the bane of fake titles severely retards the pace of economic growth at both national and local levels

Government reform efforts ~ quo vadis? In an attempt to arrest the problem and help the public guard against fake titles, the government created several task forces, among them the Land Title Verification Task Force under the Land Registration Authority (LRA).

Sadly for the public, however, in a 2000 document LRA officers discredited the LRA's own task force with the statement that this "became some sort of a 'validation/authentication' of the so-called 'saksak-bunot operations' of a syndicate dealing with fake and spurious titles."


Land / titling records dispersed to various regional/provincial offices of these agencies
FAKE TITLES
Lack of coordination among these agencies
mismanagement & lack of records security

The LRA also embarked on a P13 Billion, 13-year computerization project intended, among others, to provide the public with title information over the internet. However, for several reasons this project has failed to get off the ground.

And even if this LRA project were to bear fruit several years from now, the computerization principle of "garbage-in, garbage out" gives rise to the question: how much of the LRA or Registers of Deeds records have already been compromised by "saksak-bunot" operations, and what is the assurance that these compromised records will not find themselves into the computerized databases?

If and when the LRA project does succeed the information it could later provide the public may be largely inadequate for purposes of determining title integrity. This is because the LRA, not being the only agency involved in the entire titling process, does not have in its custody the complete set of records documenting a title's entire history as it is passed on down the line from the very original title.

For instance, the official land records (i.e. cadastral maps) and the records of the original survey and issuance of the original title are with the Lands Management Bureau (LMB) and the various offices of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), while titles issued under the CARP [i.e. emancipation patents (EP) or certificate of land ownership award (CLOA)] are with the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR).

Sometime in 2000, the LMB under the auspices of the DENR initiated moves to shore up the compromised Torrens System through reforms in land and titling records management.

This effort blossomed into the inter-agency and multi-sectoral LAMP project funded by AusAid and World Bank. The LAMP 1 came up with comprehensive studies and policy recommendations on all aspects of land administration and titling, culminating in the legislative proposals submitted to Congress in 2003.

The DENR estimated a time frame of some 20 years from enactment of the proposed measures for the reforms to show meaningful results. Again, sadly, the reform proposals have been stymied by what the private sector has perceived to be a petty battle for turf among the agencies involved. In the meantime, fictitious "titling" data and tampered records from unabated "saksak bunot" operations continue to pile up and compound the messy state of the country's titling system

One can almost hear the fake titles syndicates chuckling as they ravage the economy more brazenly than ever before.

TITLE WARRANTY

CREBA's Seal of Authenticity

By. CREBALAND

With the recent launching of the CREBALAND Title Warranty, CREBA hits back at fake titles syndicates where it would hurt them most, by exposing to their potential victims what their commodity really is ~ a mere scrap of paper.

Aimed towards strengthening the Torrens system and eventually eradicating fake titles, the pioneering CREBALAND Title Warranty ~ a prelude to full title insurance ~ was designed to thoroughly verify/evaluate land titles and provide assurance as to their integrity and reliability.

Helmed by CREBA's leading lights who are widely recognized as land experts by both the government and private sectors; backed by a board of expert consultants who have distinguished themselves in government service in the fields of law, geodetic engineering and land registration/titling, manned by a pool of legal and geosciences specialists and professionals; and linked to its regional network of title researchers through fully computerized operations and mobile computing technology; ~ the CREBALAND Title Warranty system is so far the only one of its kind in the country today.

An integral component of this system is CREBA's cutting-edge Geographic Information System (GIS) parcellary mapping, uniquely designed not only for the speedy technical analysis of land titles, but also as a potent tool in evaluating the investment and developmental potentials of any land parcel anywhere in the country

With it's digital database of official land records and maps, land information and town profiles, the CREBALAND GIS is so far also the only one of its kind in this country in terms of its comprehensive, nationwide scope and parcellary mapping/projection capabilities

Together, these systems enable anyone claiming ownership of a piece of land to fully satisfy the fundamental jurisprudential requirements of (1) proving the identity and origin of his claimed land with absolute certainty, and (2) proving the strength and legitimacy of his ownership claim

Through a microscope. A title applied for a CREBALAND Title Warranty is subjected to a most rigorous and exhaustive set of examination, research, verification, investigation and analysis processes which were so designed as to render it ***virtually impossible*** for any title defect or signs of fraud or spuriousness to ***escape detection***. These processes include, among others:

- A physical genuineness test of the judicial form used for the title certificate;
- An identity check of the registered owner or warranty applicant;
- An extensive historical research ~ from the original registration down to the latest transfer certificate ~ into all the records and documents pertaining to the successive surveys, registrations, transfers, reconstitution if any, realty tax records, annotated encumbrances, and all pertinent official land records. Certified copies of all available records are obtained from the various agencies/instrumentalities involved and their regional offices ~ such as the Registries of Deeds, LRA, LMB, DENR, DLR, National Archives, local assessors and treasurers, and the courts;
- An exhaustive technical analysis of all the technical records/documents, matched against the official maps and land records, to determine the accuracy of the land's descriptions and trace its true origin, utilizing the CREBALAND GIS, and
- Comprehensive legal and historical analyses of all the pertinent records and documents to determine, among others, regularity of official signatures and compliance with land disposition, surveying, titling and transfer procedures and requirements under various laws

With these processes, a tampered certificate of title, or a record inserted into the files of the Register of Deeds through "saksak-bunot", or a fraudulent entry in the official registries, or a "doctored" survey plan, or a fictitious or legally flawed transfer, or impersonation, and a host of other irregularities that may impact on the validity of the title, will invariably be *exposed* when each record is analyzed and matched with every other record obtained from all the agencies concerned.

A title that hurdles all these processes is issued a Title Warranty Certificate attesting to the integrity and reliability of the title

Lifetime assurance. The "title defense covenant" inscribed in each Warranty Certificate, which no other entity in this country so far offers, expresses CREBALAND's full faith in the thoroughness and accuracy of its processes and its certainty as to its findings about a title

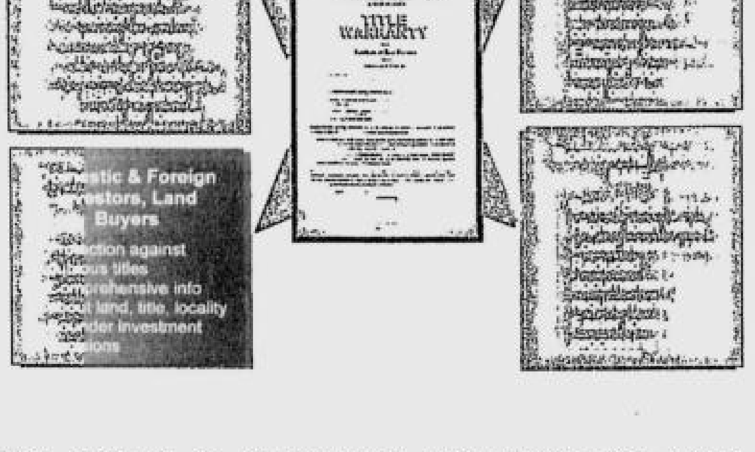
Thus, with a Title Warranty, investors, buyers and lenders are assured of protection against fake, fraudulent or materially defective titles, even as they are placed in a better position to make wiser investment decisions from the comprehensive information provided by CREBALAND about the land, the locality and the title

In the case of banks and lending institutions, the Title Warranty would considerably enhance their asset quality by affording risk-free collaterals, even as it would minimize if not preclude collusion between loan applicants and appraisers or credit investigators. With reduced risks, banks may then prevail upon the BSP to reduce the percentage requirement for loss provision which cuts into a bank's liquidity.

Prospective borrowers using a warranted title as collateral would enjoy a higher credit rating, lesser documentary requirements, speedier loan processing and, more importantly, would have the means to negotiate for higher loan value and lower interest rate.

On the other hand, landowners armed with a CREBALAND Title Warranty are assured of:

- peace of mind and protection against land grabbers flaunting fake titles;
- security against tampering of their title records, as through the research/verification process certified copies of all available title records are obtained and preserved by CREBALAND,
- effective defense in case of litigation or land conflicts; and
- enhanced marketability and increased investment/collateral value of their land



How much is an independently authenticated title worth? Affordability-wise, when one measures the substantial increments in investment value and marketability that a warranted title derives, the cost of obtaining a title warranty pales into insignificance .

Consider a 2,000-sq.m. land with a zonal value of P8,000 per square meter, located in a fake titles "hot spot" such as Antipolo. Without a title warranty, a broker could demand anywhere from 7% to 12% to market the property, and at that, the highest bid price would be no more than P4,000 per square meter.

With a title warranty that would cost just fifty pesos (P60.00) per square meter in this case, the property owner could jack up the selling price to as much as P9,000 per square meter, and still would have no difficulty marketing it

For a 5-hectare land in an urban area, with a zonal value of P4,000 per square meter, the warranty cost would be only **seven pesos** (P7.00) per square meter. For a 50-hectare agricultural land with a zonal value of P150 per square meter, it would be only forty-five centavos (P0.45) per square meter.

Compare these costs with the cost of a full coverage car insurance that is good for only a year (what's a car compared to one's land?), or to a broker's commission that ranges from 5% to 12% of selling price.

Clearly, affordability should be a non-issue to one who knows the true value of an impregnable title to land

GIS Parcellary Mapping/Projection

The Land & its Attributes. The Title & its Origins.

By CREBALAND

It is a truism that the investment and collateral value of any given land is determined not only by a set of factors indicating the land's developmental and investment potentials, but also by the quality and integrity of the title

The traditional way of collecting information about a land in any given area has been to go from one government office to another, which under normal circumstances could take months and entail considerable expense. After which the interested party goes about verifying the title; a daunting task which, unless he is fully equipped, could result in an investment debacle.

The world-class CREBALAND geographic information system (GIS) Parcellary Mapping was built specifically to answer the two fundamental questions in the mind of a potential investor

1. Is the land bankable?
2. Is the title reliable?

Using global standard geo-referencing technology and official mapping reference points, and drawing from its very own power-packed digital database of official land information covering the whole country, the CREBALAND GIS answers these questions in a breeze

More than just being the most comprehensive digital repository of geo-physical and spatial information in the country today, the uniqueness of the CREBALAND GIS arises from its capability to accurately analyze the technical integrity of the title for any land parcel anywhere in the country.

A land title may contain the following technical errors, which under existing jurisprudence would seriously impair ~ if not totally vitiate or invalidate ~ the ownership claim

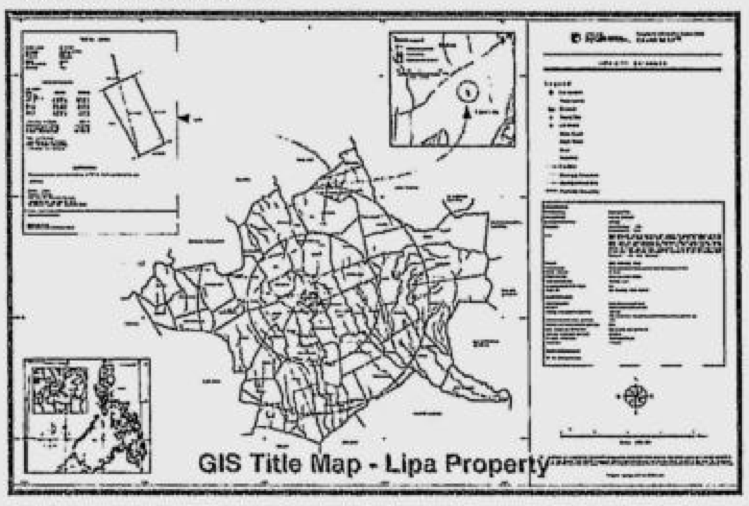
- ***Locational error*** ~ such as when the land is actually located in a place different from what the title states, or when it cannot be located at all. A seller or loan applicant may show you a land, but it may not be the same land covered by the title
- ***Boundary error*** ~ such as, for instance, when the title describes the land as being bounded by a national road or a river when in fact it is not, or when it straddles part of inalienable land.
- ***Closure error*** ~ which, in layman's terms, simply means a gap between the land parcel's corners or points. This gap means that the land's bounding lines do not close to form a polygon, such that when you fence it, you end up with a gap in the fence
- ***Overlap, encroachment or duplicate title/claim*** ~ such as when plotted or mapped, the titled land is shown to be straddling another property, or covered by another claim or title.
- ***Inconsistency*** with the reference survey plans, and/or predecessor titles, and/or official land records/maps ~ such as when the subdivisions and/or consolidations of the land throughout the history of the title lack basis in duly approved private or public land surveys.
- ***Indeterminate origin of the land*** ~ such as when plotted or mapped, the land described in the current title is shown to be not part of the predecessor titles, or of the original title (OCT), or of the original application for land registration.

One would not be able to tell whether a title contains these errors just by reading it, or even by an ocular inspection of the land itself.

Traditionally, accurately detecting these errors required an actual ground survey using geodetic engineering equipment. The results of the survey were then drawn (or plotted) either manually, or through computer-aided design (CAD) software introduced locally some 25 years ago

Even as this process is as time-consuming as it is costly, it is wholly insufficient to determine technical consistency among all titling records as against official maps, unless advanced mapping software is used in conjunction with *geo-referenced* official data.

Enter the CREBALAND GIS.



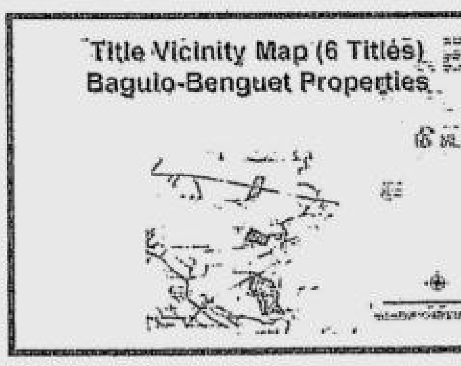
With fully computerized operations, CREBALAND easily and speedily generates various dynamic, information-packed parcellary maps, vicinity and town maps, and three-dimensional (3D) thematic maps, graphically showing the following:

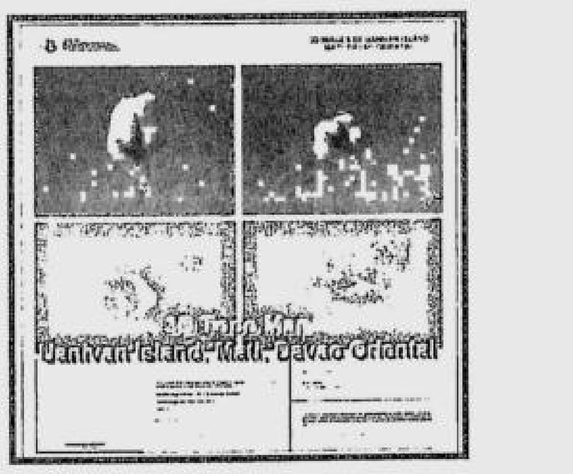
1 The land parcel (or parcels) described in the title (or titles) ~ the lot data; exact configuration and bounding lines; exact boundaries; exact location in the town/barangay map; locational, boundary and/or closure errors, and even GPS coordinates to aid in site visit

2 The technical relationships among the current title, the predecessor titles, the reference survey plans, the original titling records, and the official maps and other technical records.

3 Parcellary data on the economic or developmental potentials of the land, such as
   - Slope, elevation and lithology
   - Land use classification per approved LGU land use map
   - Agricultural land use category per SAFDZ map
   - Distance from town center
   - BIR zonal classification and zonal value

4. Vicinity and town data, such as:
   - Comprehensive road network (primary, secondary & tertiary roads)
   - Network of water bodies
   - Landmarks, economic zones, banks, tourist areas, airports
   - Fault lines
   - Utilities in the area (power franchises, water franchises, telephone carriers)
   - Barangay/town population and income class





Clearly, the CREBALAND systems are yet to be matched in this country today, and for which CREBALAND undoubtedly deserves its epithet. The Land Experts.

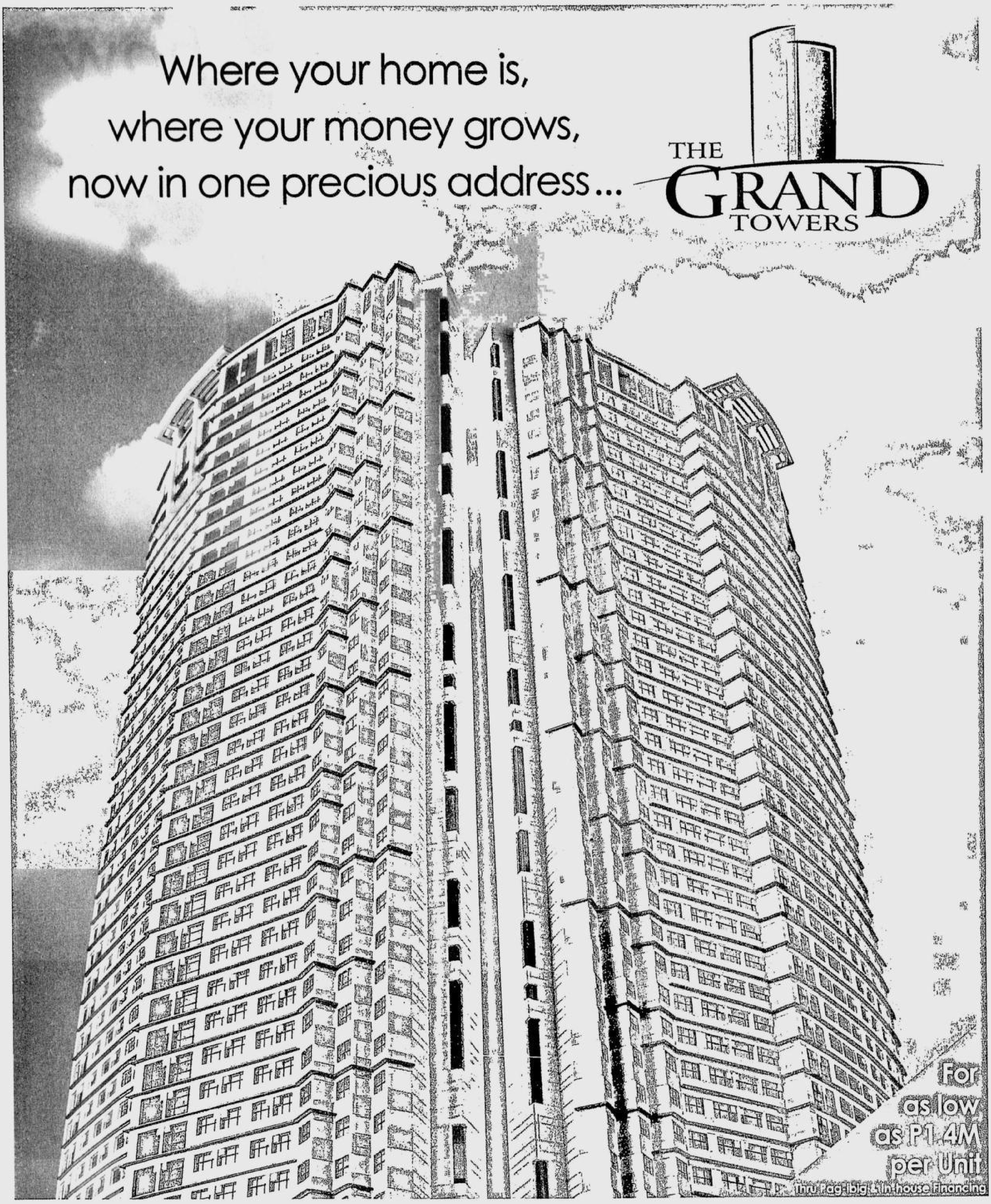
Convergence ~ powering the land sector's leap into the future. It may be said that with the CREBALAND Title Warranty and GIS Parcellary Mapping systems, the CREBA Internet Portal and CREBALAND's various technology-packed services, CREBA has finally achieved full convergence, with ICT (information and communications technology) fully powering the various disciplines in the land sector ~ geosciences, land registration and titling, law, appraisal/valuation, development planning, global marketing, and a host of others

With this convergence, the Philippine land sector is now fully armed to take the economy along in its evolutionary leap into the future.

In particular, the Title Warranty and GIS Parcellary Mapping ~ the first private sector undertakings of their kind on such comprehensive and nationwide scale in this country ~ were specifically and uniquely crafted to provide the land sector with the means to pursue the prerequisites to investment decision-making and land development in the most accurate, efficient, effective, speedy, and reliable manner.

Beyond pecuniary considerations is the considerable public or national interest that permeates these ventures, in terms of their vast potentials to significantly contribute to national progress, by triggering an expanded level and faster pace of land development and domestic/foreign investment activity at both local and national levels.

And in these ventures the public is assured of world-class standards of professional service, backed by CREBA's 34-year old reputation and prestige in the service of the industry, the economy and the nation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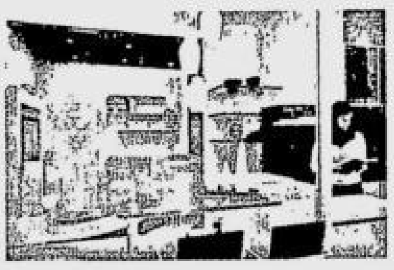

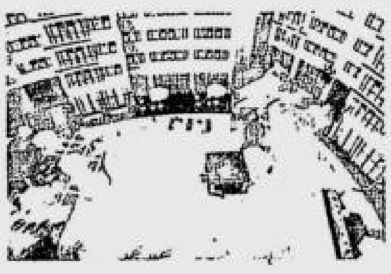

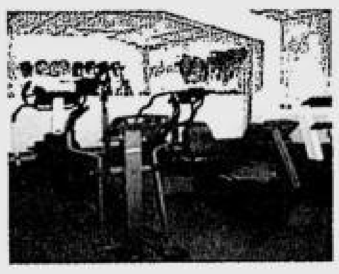

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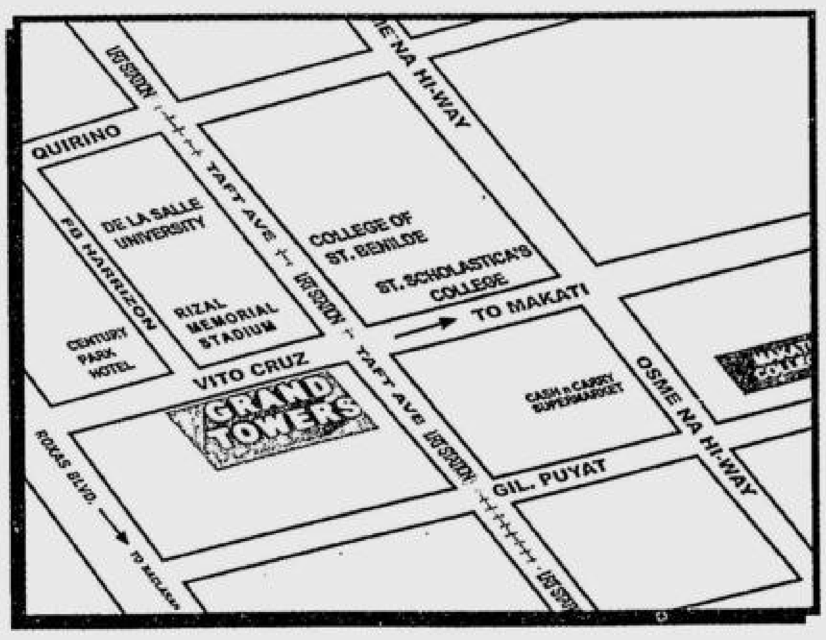
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www.marriott.com

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Center, Pasig City
Tel.638-7777 Fax 638-8567
trh@richmondehotel.com.ph
www.richmondehotel.com

Subic International Hotel
Subic Bay, Free Port Zone,
Olongapo City
Tel. 243-2222 / Fax 243-0852
www.subichotel.com

The Sulo Hotel
Matalino Road, Diliman,
Quezon City
Tel. 924-5051 to 71
Fax 922-2030
frontoffice@sulohotel.com.ph
www.sulohotel.com.ph

Taal Vista Hotel
Managed by Fuego Hotels & Properties
Km. 60 Aguinaldo Highway,
Tagaytay City
Tel. 886-4325, (6346) 413-1000
taalvista@fuegohotels.com

WHITE ROCK HOTEL
Bo. Matain, Subic Zambales
Tel. 421 - 2781-82
(047) - 232 - 2857

'After Work Happy Hour Special' at the Century

LOOK FORWARD TO an exciting experience at the Top of the Century after a long, stressful day at work. Unwind and be released from the stress of the city at the Harry's Bar and savor a timeless experience of repose.

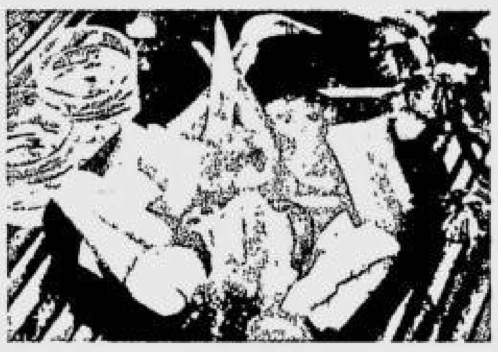
Introducing "After Work Happy Hour Special", a promo that starts from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Mondays to Saturdays, where you can have a good time with friends and coworkers. While winding down, make the night complete with a cold bucket of great-tasting beer. Introducing Asia Brewery's Coors Light, another exciting addition to its line of beer products. Relish five bottles of the frost, brewed taste of Coors Light with free plate of delectable pica pica of the day for only P200+++. Bar patrons grabbing an early discount should not miss this exciting offer. Other specially priced drink choices by the pitcher include draft beer, iced tea, fruit punch, rhum punch, mai tai, weng-weng, and zombie. While Sangria, Margarita, and Tequila Sunrise are being offered by the carafe.

Themed Nights at the Top is the prime time entertainment that starts from 9 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. With a personality of its own, you will surely take pleasure in a stylish way of loosening up. A minimum of food and beverage consumption of P375 net per person is required from Monday to Thursday and Saturday. While Fridays require P475 net each.

Sit back, sip, and savour a collection of pleasurable experiences. Plan for a great night out at the Top of the Century after a tiring day or week at work. Recharge at the 19th floor's relaxing ambience, soothing music from top-notch performers, with promos that offers the best deal for your budget.

For inquiries and reservations, call (632) 528-5823 or e-mail foodbev@centurypark.com.ph

Rice and shine at Sushi-Ya



INDULGE IN HEALTHY YET AFFORDABLE DONburis (rice toppings) at Sushi-Ya! All health conscious people must try kakiagedon, crunchy vegetable fritters with tempura sauce at P105; or oyakodon, slices of chicken breast fillet at P120. Beef fanatics will love gyudon and sukiyakidon, delicious and full-filling at P130 and P135 respectively. Sashimi and sushi lovers should not miss chirashidon, sashimi slices of tuna, salmon, tamago, kani and prawn on vinegared rice at P175. A refreshingly healthy option. Prices are VAT inclusive with no service charge. Available at Sushi-Ya's 8 branches: Westgate Alabang, Market! Market! SM Mega Mall, Robinsons Galleria, Robinsons Place Ermita, Libis, and Tomas Morato, Fiesta Strip SM City Pampanga. Sushi-Ya... sushi, tempura, bento & more! Healthy and affordable dining pleasure. Celebrating 10 sushi-yum years.

Waterfront Hotels and Casinos launches on-line booking

WATERFRONT HOTELS AND CASINOS launched its new website with more user-friendly features and enhanced design for optimum visual experience. It adopted the marketing concept of the group's marketing campaign "Excitement Around Every Corner" to keep it aligned with the group's direction in expanding its clientele not only in the Asean region, but also in the global arena of hotel market.

The newly designed Waterfront website platform is engineered to provide all visitors up to date services, promotions, hotel information and easy access to make online bookings with calendar view and a real time confirmation hotel room reservations. The platform consists of four individual websites for each Waterfront property and a link to G Hotel Manila by Waterfront, which are maintained by the group's own back-end online reservations team. The websites have been redesigned and improved to communicate the services and tools that Waterfront Hotels and Casinos provide its guests coming from all parts of the world.

Key enhancements: The new web design made use of dynamic multimedia flash, which enables a better opportunity to present a richer content in terms of visual design; a calendar view with integrated real time availability, and dynamic rates for a better Waterfront Hotel room shopping experience; showcases improved design, according to the latest standards in web design and corporate identity; and easier navigation throughout the website.

The transition of the Waterfront look on the web provides strong presence in every computer of more than 1 billion Internet users now. This upgrade is another step in Waterfront's e-commerce strategy, where the website provides an avenue for the Waterfront properties to leverage their hotels and the brand as well. The new website is equipped with real time online availability and booking options in multiple languages like Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Spanish, and French.

To experience Waterfront Hotels on-line, you may type www.waterfronthotels.com.ph or you may call (632)687-0888 or e-mail msro@waterfronthotels.net for more inquiries.

Tong Yang Adriatico 10th year bash

TONG YANG SHABU-Shabu & Barbecue, the Philippines' biggest Shabu-Shabu & BBQ Chain restaurant celebrates a milestone as its Adriatico Branch in Pan-Pacific Hotel hits the decade mark. A special 10th anniversary promo bash is slated as a way of thanking their valued customers. Avail of the Eat-All-You-Can Shabu-Shabu Lunch for only P299+ and Shabu-Shabu Dinner for P399+ (excluding BBQ/+plus VAT). For a minimum bill of P500, enjoy free bottomless drinks (iced tea and lemonade) and free parking at the 2-level basement parking or by valet parking. Promo is valid until Oct. 30 only. Tong Yang Adriatico's Eat-All-You-Can Buffet serves 150 items to choose from. Tong Yang Adriatico is located at the 3rd floor of Adriatico Square, Pan-Pacific Hotel in Adriatico Street corner Malvar Street, Malate, Metro Manila. For reservation and inquiries, call 536-8392 to 93. Other Tong Yang branches are in Level 4, Bldg. A of SM Megamall, at 1498 Quezon Avenue, at 34 Jupiter Street, Bel-Air, Makati City; at the G/F of Chimes Specialty Stores in Gov. Sales, Davao and at the Food Plaza of Boracay Regency Hotel.

Don't worry, yep, it just moved!

RECENTLY, THE NORTH PARK we all know (and love) to be along Wilson St. in West Greenhills, transferred to a new location. This bigger, brighter and new location is just a block away at P. Guevarra St. corner V. Cruz also in the City of San Juan. So loyal patrons or North Park fanatics, who may be in a temporary state of mental shock, need not worry or run amuck that their favorite Chinese comfort food is now far, far away, no dear it just moved. Great news, isn't it?! But what's even greater news is that the new location is new, big and yes, simply splendid.

Today this 3-story building is an expertly built structure, adorned with modern interiors and functional furniture, its spacious dining areas can seat over 200 people at any one time. Its air-conditioned first and second floors are now open, making you feel it never left, it just became better. Surely you can continue to enjoy North Park dishes daily from 10 a.m. to 2 a.m. Very soon, Al Fresco dining will be offered at the 3rd floor, additional parking areas will also be available. Tables with giant umbrellas are available, perfect for your middle-of-the-week-night-out with friends or office mates, to enjoy the fresh breeze of the evening air. Delivery at your doorstep is just a five-number dial away, dial 73737 and order from your home or office. For catering needs, choose from an array of buffet menus, customized menus are available for celebrating special occasions. You and your guests will enjoy delicious North Park dishes in the privacy of your own function room.

Now aren't you glad it moved?

Conway's Bar
813 8888 ext. 7026

Mey Lin Pot & Noodle House
899 6688 / 899 8999

Tony Roma's Restaurants
757 1926 / 771 1388

Island Foot & Body Wellness
899 1234 / 751 8296

Cafe Mediterranean
Greenbelt
894-4032

Bo's Coffee Club

The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf

Causeway Seafood Restaurant
24 Timog Ave, Q.C.
376-2559

Clawdaddy Crabhouse and American Grill
636-5679

Heaven 'n Eggs
(02) 818-2792
(02) 889-3791

Kalye Juan
0920-94-kalye

Palaisdaan Restaurant
Barangay Dapdap.
Tayabas Quezon
(042) 793 3529

Lola Maria Coffeeshop
60 Pioneer St.
Mandaluyong City
633 1501 to 10

FJ's Grill
24 Timog Ave, Q.C.
376 2559

The Old Spaghetti House
687-6630

North Park
73737

MUSEUM CAFÉ
Ayala Museum, Greenbelt 4
757-3000
757-6000

Kopiroti Davao
(082)3016009

Chelsea Market & Cafe
909-7011
909-7012

Sushi-Ya
0917 84 sushi

Tong Yang Shabu-Shabu
899 3388 897 4148

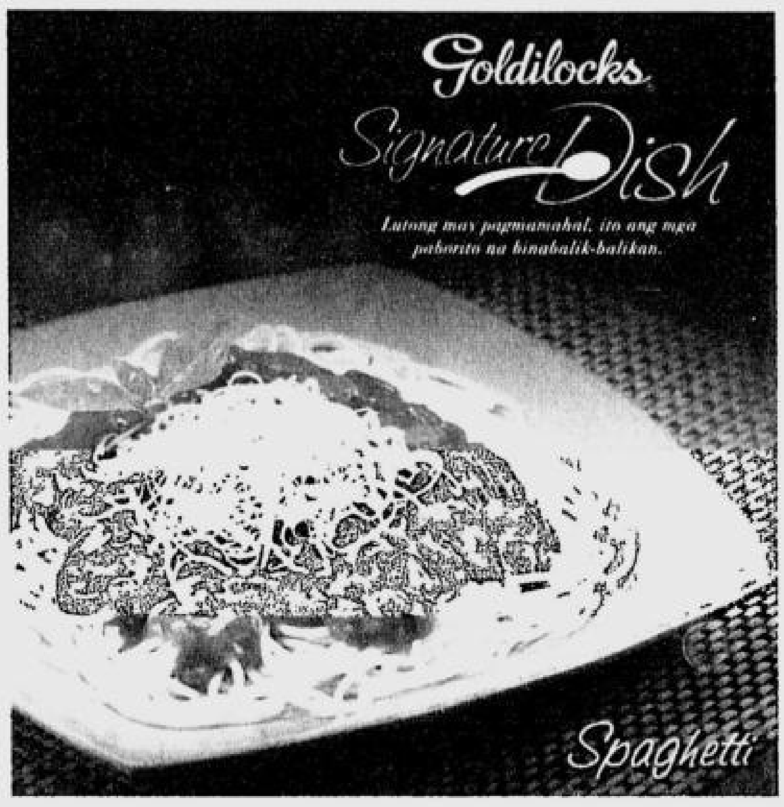
This week Super means ▸▸ Speed • U-turn • Propulsion • E-pass • Road block

DRIVE WITH SUPER

style • urban living • pop culture • entertainment • recreation
super
FLY WITH SUPER ▸▸ Pilot: Pam Pastor · Co-Pilot: Katrina A. Holigores · Fl[illegible]: Tata Diaz, James Gabrillo, Wanggo Gallaga, Juana Manahan, Paolo Reyes · Air Traffic Controller: Abel Ulanday · Cabin Crew: Belen Belesario, L.A. Mistades · Ground Control: Me-ann Ayos, Rissa Camongol, Lilie Lazaro

Fast forward

Wake up for this Super scoop!


Goldilocks
Signature Dish
Lutong may pagmamahal, ito ang mga paborito na binabalik-balikan.
Spaghetti

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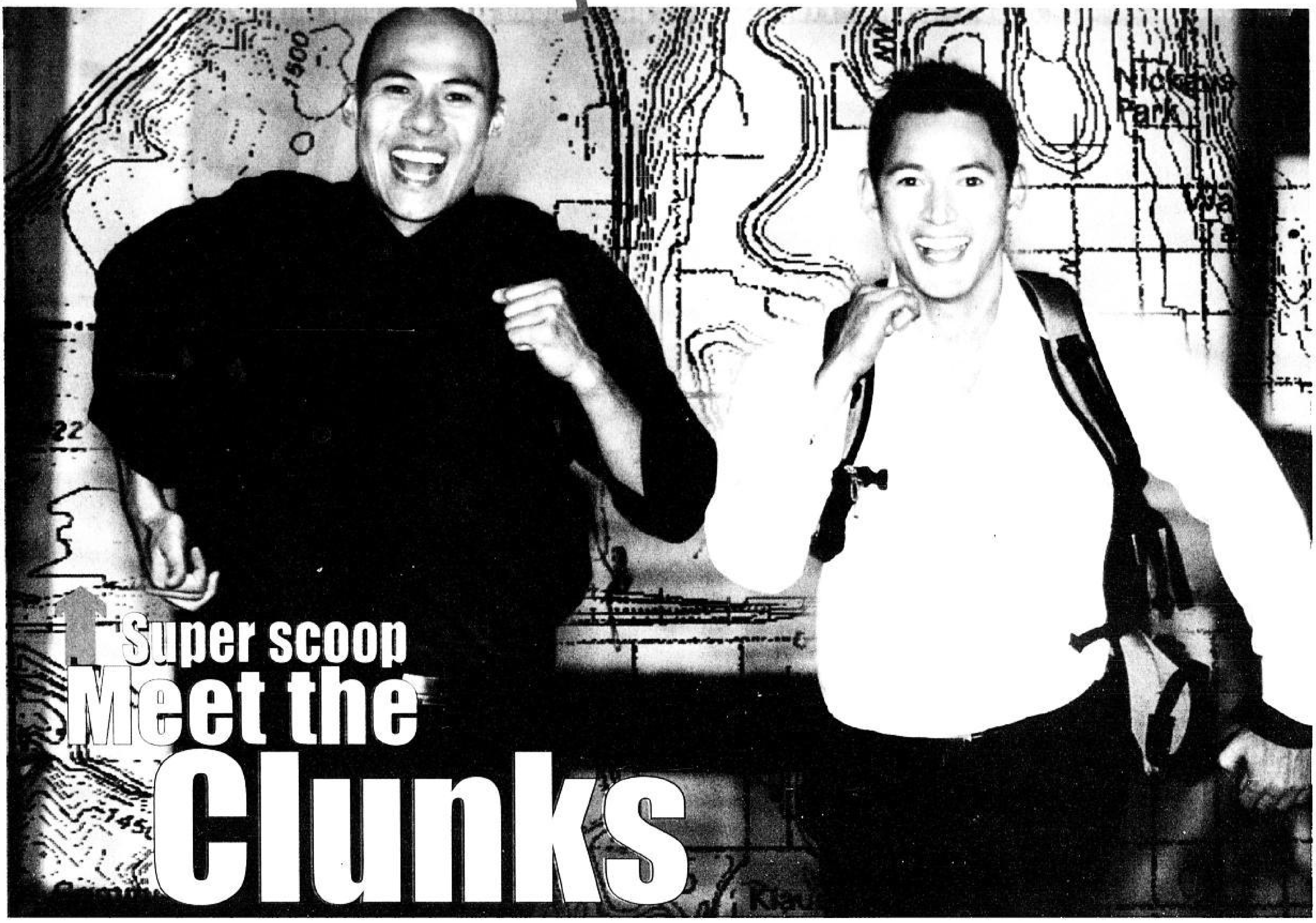
*Lite payment scheme

THIS PARTY IS DEFINITELY COOL!
Come to our BUYERS' NIGHT event this September 29 at the Chili's Grill & Bar Restaurant, Greenbelt, Makati from 6:00PM - 10:00PM.

This ad is for announcement purposes only.



Super scoop

Meet the Clunks

THUNDER ROAD
James Gabrillo

PHOTOGRAPHY BYEDDIE BOY ESCUDERO
MAKEUP BYLAILA B. HERNANDEZ
OF SHU UEMURA
SHOT ON LOCATION ATHYATT HOTEL
AND CASINO MANILA
SPECIAL THANKS TOJOYCE RAMIREZ
AND ISABEL GATUSLAO
PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BYDAE LEE
THIS SUPER SCOOP IS BROUGHT TO YOU
BYAXNASIA . RACE STARTS IN NOVEMBER!

PEEP OF THE WEEK (or feet of the week!) Didn't make the cut

IT'S A SMALL WORLD AFTER ALL!

THE SHOW THAT has captured audiences is back—this time with two of our very own TV hosts hopping along to reprezent y'all.

Okay, enough of the ghetto talk. Exciting times lie ahead for fans and newcomers to Asia's edition of the Emmy Award winning reality-competition series, "The Amazing Race," as "The Amazing Race Asia 2" promises to be bigger and bolder, traveling further and beyond Asia.

Bar none, the original Amazing Race has given viewers a global adventure reality show like no other. Even after 11 awesome installments, fans are not letting go of the show.

The Amazing Race not only just bagged its fifth consecutive Emmy Award, it has won every 'Outstanding Reality-Competition Television Programme' Emmy since the award genre was created.

The first Asian edition too wowed the fans, with over 15 million viewers tuning in for its unique brand of entertainment. With so much behind The Amazing Race franchise, The Amazing Race Asia is set to push the envelope even further in season 2.

So who made the cut this season? 10 feisty teams of varied nationalities and cultural backgrounds from a wide range of Asian nations had beaten out over 2,500 applicants (and even past participants of the original US series) to gain a hot spot in the race for an adventure of a lifetime.

Hi, I'm a Mac, only with an R in the middle

Fast forward to this exciting newsbreak! Our very own TV personalities Rovilson Fernandez and Marc Nelson form one of the two teams from the Philippines. They call themselves Team Rovilson and Marc, or Team Marc and Rovilson, depending on who you're asking.

"We promise to give you the most animated, the most exciting, the most lovable, huggable, most fun team you've ever seen on Amazing Race Asia. Why do you want us? Because we are fit, we are fearless, and best of all, we are the most competitive ... when we are giving each other a hard time," the duo says on their audition video, which was inspired by the "I'm a Mac, I'm a PC" ad campaign of Apple.

Joining the race was Rovilson's suggestion, Marc shares. "We both love the race. We're both going through a stage in our lives where we wanted to do something out of the box, something adventurous. We have traveled together before, we have a very similar sense of humor, and we're into sports. So I was like, hell yeah, let's go! We originally planned to do a backpacking trip in Europe during the time the race was taped, so it was easy to leave. We already told people that we're gonna be away for a month or so. Everything really just kind of came together."

Watch, learn, and win?

Both hosting sports-related shows on the tube, the duo didn't need to prepare much physically. Marc, however, had to work on an important element of the race—running around. "I had to work on my cardio. I hate to run, I really do. It's not my favorite thing. The actual running during the race scared me. I don't do the treadmill on the gym, so I had to step up on my cardio a bit. Mentally, I think I was game."

Rovilson shares, "We had to study a lot on world things, like maps and current events."

In addition, the team fixed their strategies and psyched themselves up by watching a lot of episodes from the past seasons of The Amazing Race. "Every episode we could get our hands on, we watched. Up until the plane ride going to the starting location, Rovilson and I were viewing the show via an iPod!" Marc recalls.

Boys just wanna have fun

When host Allan Wu gave the go signal, the duo was immediately branded as the pretty boys of the game. Rovilson admits that he wasn't surprised. "Everyone was expecting us to be the hunks; but I'd like to think that we were the clowns. We were, well, the Clunks," he shares. Marc, on the other hand, calls their duo "The Village Idiots."

And that's pretty much their on-screen persona. Blasting that dumb-hunks stereotype, Marc and Rovilson are sophisticated, well-traveled, and self-deprecating. Expect the guys to put each other down a lot, all in the name of hamming it up for the cam.

Rovilson shares that he felt motivated by the disappointing performance of the Philippine teams last season—one duo was even eliminated during the very first episode. "Absolutely motivating. I couldn't sleep on the first night of the race. I was dreading that we would come in last on the very first pit stop, with Allan Wu saying 'The Philippines has done it again. You are the last team to arrive!'"

Both guys are very confident that the audience will love them. "The whole time, we were very aware that the camera was capturing our every move. We worked it. Hey, we're two guys from TV, so we know how it is. Plus, Marc's there to pose and angle for the camera on my behalf," Rovilson says.

Marc shares, "Anything that has to do with strength or stamina—Rovilson's the man. On the other hand, I have the sense of direction, and I'm really analytical. So we complement each other."

Team Marc and Rovi? Or Team Rovi and Marc? Let's just call them the team that will rock the 'The Amazing Race' for the Philippines. Hooray!

He adds, "On the show, we were the clowns whilst being very competitive. We'd like to think that we had a great time. Yes, it was about winning; but at the end of the day, you wanna have a great time. It's an opportunity of a lifetime. You're traveling around the world with one of your best friends. Sometimes it was really just about kicking back and enjoying it. Sure we play it up sometimes but when they watch the show, they'll see Rovilson and I being Rovilson and I. It's who we are in real life. We are idiots."

Pretty, amazing

While the previous season had contestants facing challenges at major destinations in Asia, Australia, New Zealand, and even the Middle East, this season, viewers will get a generous dose of adventure as The Amazing Race Asia 2 goes far and wide, racing across four continents.

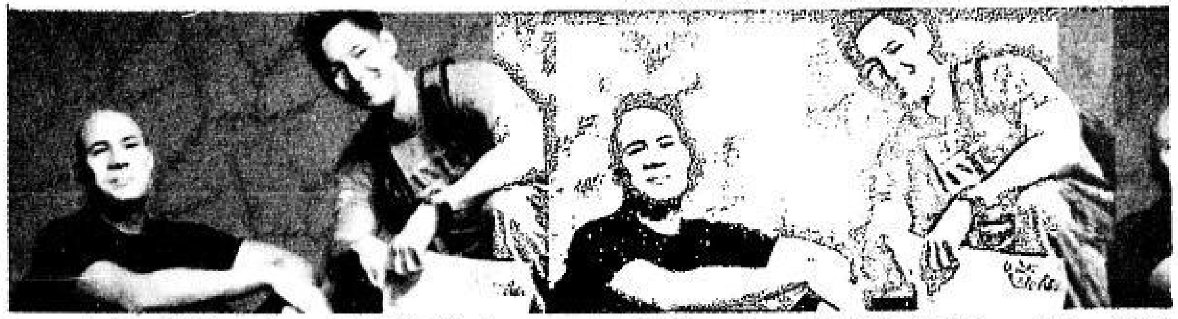
Plus, I've been hearing that this season's cast so well. "This is a faster, hipper, younger, more exciting batch. During our first meeting together, I swear, I thought we were in an audition for America's Next Top Model," Rovilson tells me.

Marc adds, "This is the best season of the show. It beats all the other seasons, even the ones from the US. There are some unbelievable characters in this season, including the other Philippine team, a couple from Cavite."

"They are—how do I say it—controversial," Rovilson says.

Aside from the buzz, expect the unexpected. Expect two guys who are out there to have fun. Expect a whole lot of laughs. Expect Team Marc and Rovilson, or Rovilson and Marc to represent the country well.

It's gonna be a blast. Fo' shizzle.



Never miss a moment with Canon ZR camcorders

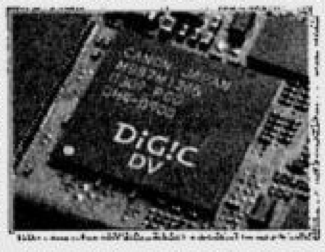
Remember your baby's first steps, the way he fidgeted when he got his first haircut and his surprised face when a balloon popped on his first birthday party. Imagine this in true motion captured in full color, with uncompromised video quality. Imagine that and more with Canon's MiniDV camcorders.

Canon, the world's leader in digital imaging, has introduced three new models in its ZR series camcorders: the ZR850, ZR830, and ZR800 MiniDV Camcorders.

These camcorders provide powerful technology for capturing the most outstanding videos and photos with an array of smart new features that ensure the easiest, most enjoyable user experience. In fact, as Canon has long been regarded as an expert in optical lens design and production, all ZR series camcorders feature 35x optical zoom - Canon's longest zoom ever. This feature allows you to zoom in on your child performing the lead role in a theater play or his action-packed moves at his first baseball game.

Canon's ZR camcorder line offers the ideal solution for consumers who may just be getting started with their first camcorder and are looking for the simplest, most accessible device that delivers great results. The new ZR models feature a joystick in the main panel display that makes it easier than ever to record, play back and navigate the menu options. The Easy Mode automatically optimizes most of the camcorder's settings, while the preset scene modes make it easy to shoot common scenes, including sunsets, fireworks, or a day at the beach.

The 2.7 inch widescreen LCD allows you to easily compose shots that can be shown on a widescreen TV. So share your videos with family and friends as you munch popcorn in front of your television.



The new models are also powered by Canon's DIGIC DV image processor. The DIGIC DV technology processes video information separately from photo information to always reproduce accurate, clear colors for both mediums. It also dynamically widens the range of colors in video and photos.

Go the Distance -- Smoothly

The 2007 ZR series camcorders offer genuine Canon 35x optical zoom lens (1000x digital zoom), which is Canon's longest optical zoom on a camcorder to date. Sophisticated yet simple to use, Canon's Smooth Zoom feature actually reduces the erratic, jerky zoom techniques that plague some users of long zooms, smoothing out the process by selecting from one of three pre-set zoom speeds. For even smoother video, Canon Image Stabilization helps provide a shake free image for the entire focal length.

Shoot and Roll Anytime Without the Hassle

This year, Canon introduces the Quick Start feature, which allows the camcorder to be ready at a moment's notice. The Quick Start mode (available on the ZR850 and ZR830 MiniDV camcorders) provides an alternative to the standard limited "on/off" option and lets you put the camcorder on "standby" between shots. Once on standby, you can resume shooting quickly - in less than one second - meaning no more missing the first moments of the school play while the camcorder warms up.

Quick Start's "standby" capability also means that the camcorder does not waste battery power by repeatedly turning on and off. Canon ZR MiniDV camcorders can remain in Quick Start mode for 30 minutes before automatically shutting off.

The Canon ZR800 MiniDV Camcorder also offers a microphone terminal, allowing you the added flexibility of plugging in an external microphone.

The Canon ZR850 MiniDV Camcorder provides a built-in Video Light to help ensure that you do not miss a thing, even when the natural lighting is less than ideal. It also offers a 1.07 megapixel CCD Image Sensor to be sure that all still and moving images captured are of a higher quality.

You Can Take It With You

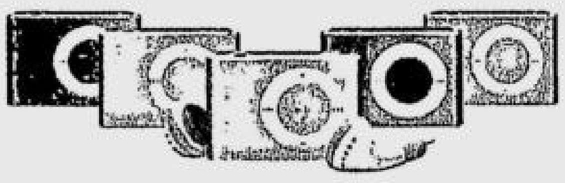
The ZR850 and ZR830 MiniDV Camcorders each record still images and feature PictBridge technology, which make it a snap to distribute prints by allowing the ZR camcorder to connect directly to any PictBridge compatible printer. Now you can print those stills and arrange your pictures in your mom's anniversary book or your son's "Firsts" scrapbook.

Sleek Styling, Comfortable Cost

All structured with Canon's sleek designs, the new ZR series camcorders are easy on the eyes and easy to hold in the hand. The ZR series camcorders come in three colors – the ZR850, Pearl Black; the ZR830, Dark Gray; the ZR800, Deep Blue. They also are lightweight and compact, making them easy to grab on the go. Even with the 35x optical zoom lens, each of the three ZR model camcorders weighs less than a pound. All models have built-in lens covers so that there is no intruding, dangling lens cap.

Available from authorized Canon dealers, the ZR850 retails at PHP 27,950, ZR830 at PHP 22,950 and ZR800 at 19,950. It comes with a FREE DV bag, tripod and one miniDV tape.

And there's more. The Canon Photo DV Offer is now extended until September 30, 2007! You can get an iPod Shuffle for free or at a 60% discount when you purchase a Canon PhotoDV Camcorder. Simply present the promo voucher and sales invoice at any PowerMac outlet to claim the iPod Shuffle. For provincial purchases, the iPod Shuffle will be delivered right at your doorstep. Redemption period is only until November 30, 2007 so visit your nearest Canon dealer today! Per DTI-NCR permit number 3770, series of 2007. See flyers and print ad for details.



Get a free iPod shuffle on your purchase of select PhotoDV models by September 30, 2007

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IXUS 70
- 7.1 Megapixels with 6.35cm (2.5") Pure Colour LCD
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- Sound recording
- Slimmer body - 19.4 mm

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FREE Camera case, 1 GB SD Card

IXUS 75
- 7.1 Megapixels with 7.62cm (3.0") Pure Colour LCD
- Face Detection and Red Eye Correction Technology
- Sound recording
- Auto ISO shift
- Slimmer body - 19.6 mm

~~Php 22,500~~
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IXUS 850 IS
Classic IXUS elegance with breakthrough technology
- 7.1 Megapixels with 6.35cm (2.5") LCD
- 3.8x optical zoom with optical image stabilizer
- Built in 28mm wide angle lens
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- 4x optical zoom w/ optical image stabilizer
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NEW

SELPHY CP750
- Large 6.35cm (2.4") LCD
- Battery operable
- Easy to use card slot
- Accomodates IrSimple high speed infrared communication

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FREE SELPHY Bag, SELPHY Art Kit

SELPHY ES1
- Dye-sublimation technology
- Creative printouts
- Integrated ink and paper
- Infrared
- My Colors Function
- ID photo printing

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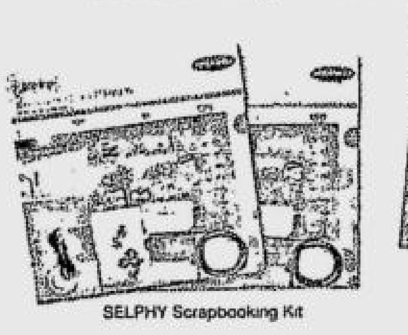
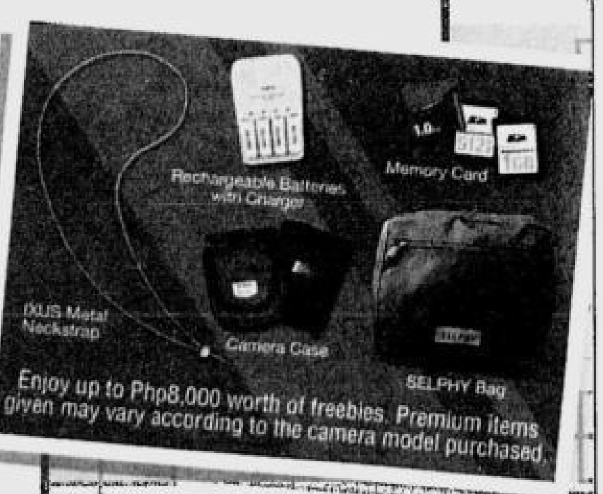


SELPHY Scrapbooking Kit



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Promo Period: August 17 to September 30, 2007. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3932, Series of 2007.

South
SUPERMARKET

Tide Colgate

Double Treat Raffle Promo Instant Panalo!

head & shoulders CREAM SILK CONDITIONERS Lucky Me! Modess POND'S

Win instantly and have a chance to win in the raffle.

The promotion is valid in all South Supermarket branches (Valenzuela, Pasig, Filinvest, Los Baños, Sta. Rosa, Guiguinto, Lipa and Malolos).

Pick a Prize

For a minimum single receipt of P 2,500 or P 750.00, the customer has a chance to pick a prize in the corresponding bowl with a specified label of P 2,500.00 and P 750.00.

Raffle Promo

For every Five (P500.00) Pesos worth of purchase in a single receipt (cash/credit card) with any of the two (2) participating products* the customer has a chance to win up to P100,000.00 worth of South Supermarket Gift Certificates with one winner per branch.

**Tide, Colgate, Head and Shoulders, Cream Silk Conditioner, Lucky Me, Modess, and Pond's*

Promo period is from August 15 to November 30, 2007. See flyers for complete details.

HUGGIES Eden Carlo Rossi JOY NIVEA PEARL Beauty Lady's Choice Gain Plus ADVANCE NESCAFÉ Coca-Cola Bayer UFC Anlene Sunkist EQ Dry Tender Juicy

Per DTI-NCR Permit # 3696 series of 2007

24/7

By Janine Cuenca-Dario and Stef Juan

Super Radar

SUGARFREE LIVE!
MANILA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
MUSIC MUSEUM

TASTE Sugarfree as it celebrates its 8th year anniversary with style. No less than the 33-piece ensemble Manila Symphony Orchestra joins the band in this ambitious endeavor. "Sugarfree Live!" happens tonight at 8 p.m. at the Music Museum.

SEE the one-of-a-kind musical extravaganza, Wanders, featuring gravity-defying aerial acrobatics by flamboyant performers from China and Russia. Every Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday night beginning Oct. 1 to Dec. 29 at the Pagcor Grand Theater, Casino Filipino Airport, Parañaque. Call 891-9999.

HEAR the beautiful Spanish language and fall in love all over again at Pelicula 6th Spanish Film Festival starting this Oct. 1-12 at the Greenbelt 3 Cinemas, Ayala Center, Makati. Those actors aren't too hard on the eyes either. The festival will feature over 20 Spanish and Latin-American films. Free admission. For screening schedules, call Instituto Cervantes Manila at 526-1482 to 85 or visit manila.cervantes.es.

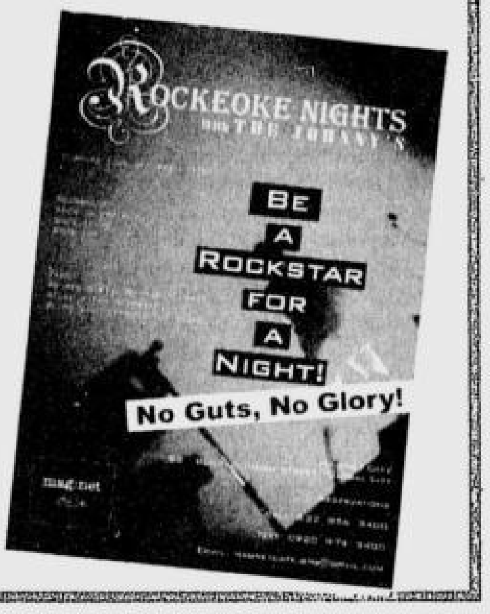
TASTE Chef Rolando Laudico's scrumptious re-creations of classic Filipino dishes fused with the snooty French cuisine at Bistro Filipino. We recommend the six-course degustation menu for first timers. Bistro Filipino is located at the Ground Floor of, Net2 Bldg., 3rd Avenue, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, with phone 856-0634 and 856-0541.

FEEL the energy at the Chivas Live DJ Lab Experiment Hypervox! Live vocal stylings by Girl Valencia and Skarlet with cutting edge electronica from Manila's best DJs will be featured tonight, 10 p.m. at Warehouse 135. Call 887-6265 or 887-0526.

DISCOVER the aromatic flavors of Chocolate at Café Xocolat in any of their locations: Loyola Heights, Serendra and Eastwood City Walk.

WATCH OUT for the awarding of Manila's best in the nightlife at the 24/7 Nocturnal Awards on Wednesday. Winners will be announced soon.

JOIN crazy karaoke fun when The Johnnies take over Mag:Net Bonifacio High Street to play hits from The Beatles, U2, R.E.M., The Ramones and other favorites from the '80s that you can sing along to. The singing starts at 9:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 1.



C2 unwind!
TEA for better Life
C2 cool & clean
Green Tea

There's nothing like relaxing with a bottle of C2 Green Tea at the end of the day. It's brewed from natural green tea leaves that contain L-theanine, a type of amino acid that helps relieve stress and anxiety – so you can keep living that cool and clean C2 life!

A New Lifestyle Philosophy

Live the cool and clean life by experiencing these activities that will rejuvenate your body, broaden your mind and nourish your soul.

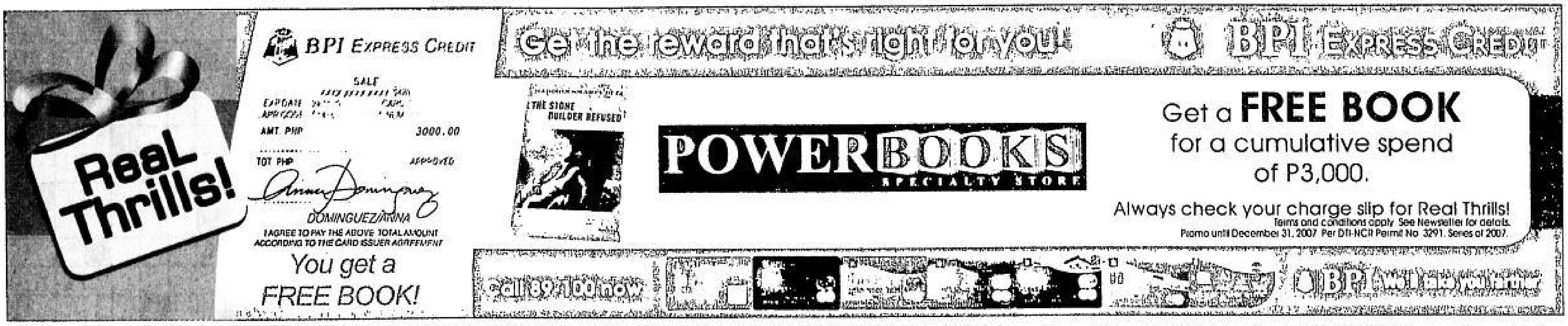
September				October			
8	Taichi	Learn the secrets of this ancient Chinese regimen from certified instructor Karl Go	College of Human Kinetics Bldg., U.P. Diliman Quezon City 10:00 am - 12:00 pm	6	Walking Tour of Intramuros	See Manila in a whole new light with historian Carlos Celdran	San Agustin Church, Intramuros, Manila 9:30 am - 12:00 pm
15	Bikram Yoga	Relax and re-energize with Bikram Yoga by guru Tristan Choa	Unit 1, 503 St. Corporate Center, 141 Valero cor. Soliano Sts., Makati 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm	13	Old Manila Walks	Ivan ManDy takes you on a tour of the historic streets of Binondo, Manila	Binondo Church, Manila 2:00 pm - 5:30 pm
22	Free workouts	Build your body at one of the country's top gyms, Slimmer's World	Slimmer's World International Pasay Rd. cor. Hernandez Sts 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm	20	Images of Rock at the MET Museum	A gallery tour featuring The Rocked Age: Images of Loud Music Culture.	Metropolitan Museum Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Complex, Manila 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm
29	Belly Dancing	Tone your tummies with Jill Ngo of Peak Performance	Sacred Heart School/Studio Glorietta 3, Makati City 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm	27	Great Filipino Artists at Ayala Museum	See masterpieces of Juan Luna, Fernando Amorsolo, Fernando Zobel & Damian Domingo	Ayala Museum Makati Ave. cor. Dela Rosa Sts Greenbelt Park, Makati City 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

PHILIPPINE DAI Y RER

super

E-mail: super@inquirer.com.ph

Text us your feedback: inquirer sup name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)



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Terms and conditions apply. See Newsletter for details.
Promo until December 31, 2007. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3291, Series of 2007.
Call 89-100 now
BPI

Idol mind • Idol mind • Idol mind

By Fran Katigbak
and Kathryn Fatima Reyes

PERHAPS ONE OF THE telltale signs "American Idol" finalist Elliot Yamin has reached celebrity status is you're only allowed 15 minutes to be in a room with him.

And Super grabbed those 15 minutes when the 29-year-old artist visited the country recently.

His self-titled album—a compilation of R&B songs rendered in the unique, soulful voice that has won over fans worldwide—was released March 28 in the US. Elliot has since gone on tour in the States and Canada, with the Philippine stop hosted by the Ayala Malls his very first in Asia.

Despite the shutterbugs and the spotlight, fans won't be disappointed to learn Elliot has remained very friendly and down-to-earth. "The celebrity status sits very weird with me. People use that term pretty loosely around me. I always felt that to be thought of as celebrity, or be talked about that way, is just kind of weird. I don't know if it will ever sink in because I'm just the same old guy, only with a schedule 10 times busier."

Well, not *exactly* the same old guy we watched in "AI" Season 5.

During a red-carpet event for AI's Top 12, a reporter asked Elliot: If there's anything you could change about your looks, what would it be? His reply (that he's content with his looks but would love to have an extra smile) came out in magazines and newspapers all over the US.

He was also bombarded with calls from dentists who offered to fix his smile. "A dentist I met in LA offered to redo my smile for free and I took it since it was a very expensive procedure. I was thinking, I'd be in front of the camera a lot and, having a lot to smile about, I figured I'd go ahead and get my teeth fixed."

Elliot has decided to embrace his mop of curls, too. "It was my idea just to let it grow out. I didn't even know I had curls, serious!"

On the Ayala Malls tour in Manila and Cebu, he charmed audiences with the brand-new smile and hairstyle, but with the warm personality and soulful vibe of the old Yamin intact.

In the following excerpts, Elliot talks about his friendship with another AI finalist, Fil-Am José Sway Peñala. He shares his thoughts on the album and promotional tour, plus how he plans to keep his ground in the competitive music industry.

A lot of Idol finalists have either been one-hit wonders or have just as quickly gotten off the limelight. How do you plan to avoid that route?

I think we've got a lot of great things in the horizon. We've been doing a good job of staying in the public eye and making the right TV appearances on the right shows. I've got a new publicist now. I've got a great marketing and promotions team that we've hired

IDOL/D4

"I'M JUST the same old guy, only with a schedule 10 times busier."

True style is about expressing your true colors.
NOKIA
New colors
Options
Select
Exit
Nokia 6300
True style never shouts.
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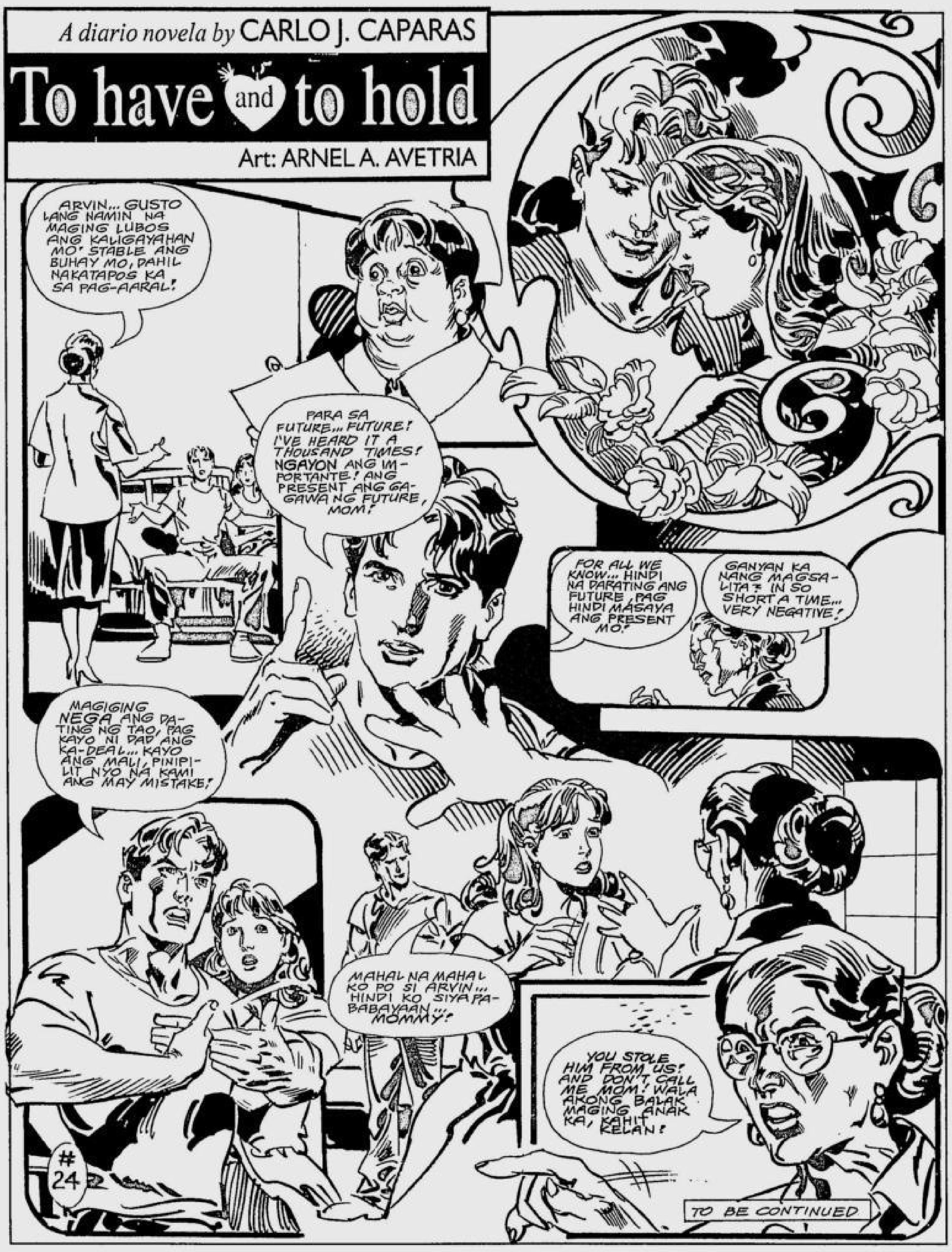
A diario novela by CARLO J. CAPARAS

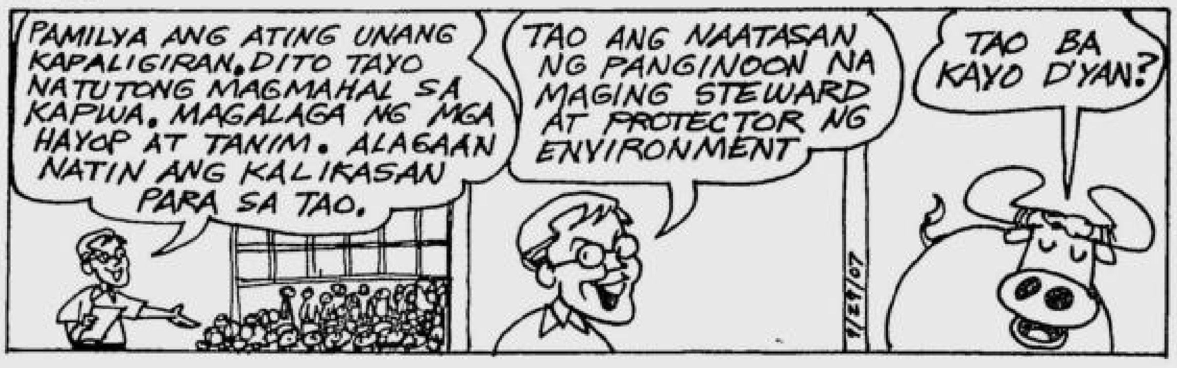
To have and to hold

Art: ARNEL A. AVETRIA


ARVIN... GUSTO LANG NAMIN NA MAGING LUBOS ANG KALIGAYAHAN MO' STABLE ANG BUHAY MO, DAHIL NAKATAPOS KA SA PAG-AARAL!
PARA SA FUTURE... FUTURE! I'VE HEARD IT A THOUSAND TIMES! NGAYON ANG IMPORTANTE! ANG PRESENT ANG GAGAWA NG FUTURE, MOM!
FOR ALL WE KNOW... HINDI NA DARATING ANG FUTURE, PAG HINDI MASAYA ANG PRESENT MO!
GANYAN KA NANG MAGSALITA? IN SO SHORT A TIME... VERY NEGATIVE!
MAGIGING NEGA ANG DATING NG TAO, PAG KAYO NI DAD ANG KA-DEAL... KAYO ANG MALI, PINIPILIT NYO NA KAMI ANG MAY MISTAKE!
MAHAL NA MAHAL KO PO SI ARVIN... HINDI KO SIYA PABABAYAAN... MOMMY!
YOU STOLE HIM FROM US! AND DON'T CALL ME MOM! WALA AKONG BALAK MAGING ANAK KA, KAHIT KELAN!
#24
TO BE CONTINUED

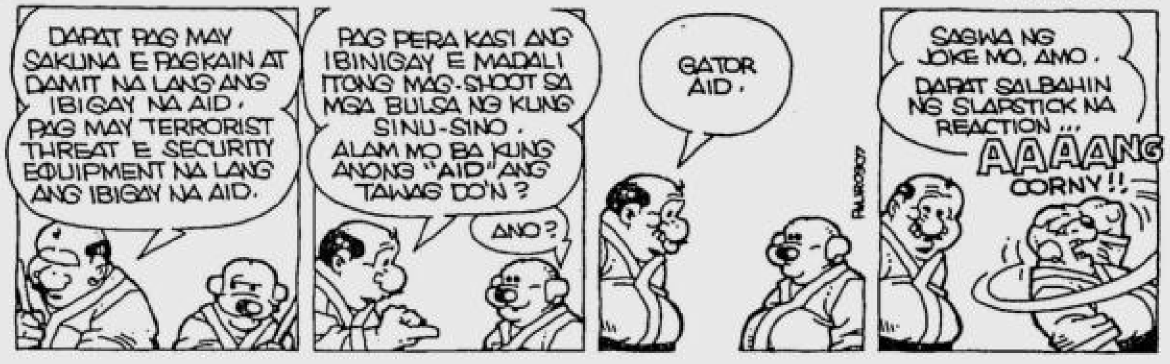
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


PAMILYA ANG ATING UNANG KAPALIGIRAN. DITO TAYO NATUTONG MAGMAHAL SA KAPWA. MAGALAGA NG MGA HAYOP AT TANIM. ALAGAAN NATIN ANG KALIKASAN PARA SA TAO.
TAO ANG NAATASAN NG PANGINOON NA MAGING STEWARD AT PROTECTOR NG ENVIRONMENT
TAO BA KAYO D'YAN?
9/29/07

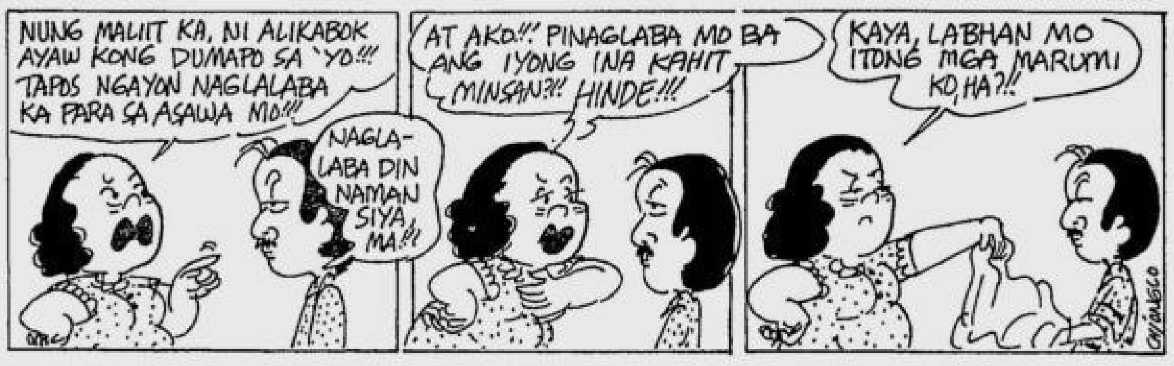
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


DAPAT PAG MAY SAKUNA E PAGKAIN AT DAMIT NA LANG ANG IBIGAY NA AID. PAG MAY TERRORIST THREAT E SECURITY EQUIPMENT NA LANG ANG IBIGAY NA AID.
PAG PERA KASI ANG IBINIGAY E MADALI ITONG MAG-SHOOT SA MGA BULSA NG KUNG SINU-SINO. ALAM MO BA KUNG ANONG "AID" ANG TAWAG DO'N?
ANO?
GATOR AID.
SAGWA NG JOKE MO, AMO. DAPAT SALBAHIN NG SLAPSTICK NA REACTION...
AAAANG CORNY!!

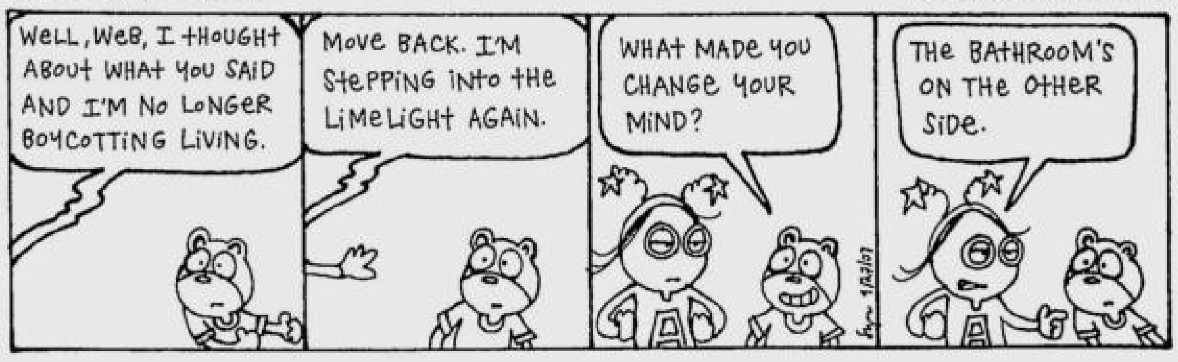
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


NUNG MALIIT KA, NI ALIKABOK AYAW KONG DUMAPO SA 'YO!!! TAPOS NGAYON NAGLALABA KA PARA SA ASAWA MO!!!
NAGLALABA DIN NAMAN SIYA, MA!!!
AT AKO!!! PINAGLABA MO BA ANG IYONG INA KAHIT MINSAN?!! HINDE!!!
KAYA, LABHAN MO ITONG MGA MARUMI KO, HA?!!
CHIONGLO

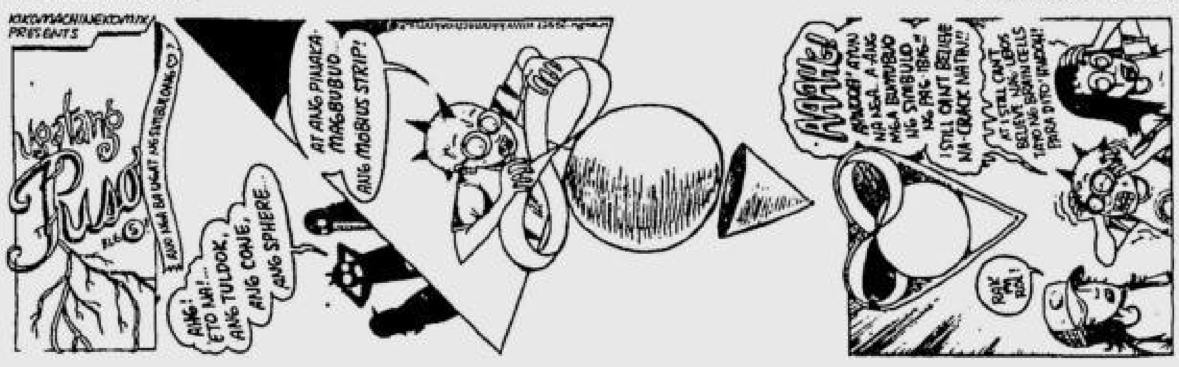
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


WELL, WEB, I THOUGHT ABOUT WHAT YOU SAID AND I'M NO LONGER BOYCOTTING LIVING.
MOVE BACK. I'M STEPPING INTO THE LIMELIGHT AGAIN.
WHAT MADE YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND?
THE BATHROOM'S ON THE OTHER SIDE.

KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


KIKOMACHINEKOMIX PRESENTS
ANG! ETO NA!.. ANG TULDOK, ANG CONE, ANG SPHERE.
AT ANG PINAKA-MAGBUBUO... ANG MOBIUS STRIP!
AAARGH!
I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE NA-CRACK NATIN!

DAILY CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	■	6	7	8	■	9	10	11	12	13
14					■	15			■	16				
17					18				19					
20			■	21							■	22		
23			24				■	25			26			
■	■	27				■	28						■	■
29	30				■	31							32	33
34				■	35					■	36			
37				38					■	39				
■	■	40						■	41				■	■
42	43						■	44					45	46
47			■	48			49				■	50		
51			52								53			
54					■	55			■	56				
57					■	58			■	59				

By Josiah Breward
Scranton, PA

9/29/07

ACROSS
1 Grads
6 What the winner takes
9 Ruin by clumsiness
14 Time being
15 King of France
16 Ms. Rogers St. Johns
17 Annihilating
20 Schedule abbr.
21 Pastime athlete
22 Domino dot
23 Input data again
25 Lacy openwork in a Gothic window
27 Ball-shaped hammerhead
28 Nightwatches
29 Stoppages
31 Alpha male, e.g.
34 Former sports org.
35 Assigned a value to
36 Deceptive maneuver
37 Plummets
39 Plains people
40 Successful transplantation
41 Ballerina's attire
42 Made a chess maneuver
44 Minded the kids
47 MGM motto opener
48 Crosswise
50 Gun advocate grp.
51 Handy folk
54 Hose off
55 Old space station
56 "__ Dream," Lohengrin aria
57 Sidled
58 Letters at JFK
59 Rene of "Get Shorty"

DOWN
1 Sadat of Egypt
2 French river
3 Nondescript
4 1101
5 Upper chambers
6 Clamorous
7 Hay storage place
8 Existences
9 Manama's country
10 Poem of tribute
11 Stormy state
12 Verlaine poem, "__ de lune"
13 Delighted
18 Feds
19 Grandiloquent
24 Disregard
26 Freedom from ambiguity
28 Yeas and nays
29 24-hr. info source
30 "7 Faces of Doctor __"
31 18th-century British philosopher
32 Buckeyes' home
33 Author Stout
35 Meet the challenge
38 Postponed
39 More underplayed
41 Biblical weed
42 Core group
43 Arum plant
44 Iraqi port
45 Tapestry in "Hamlet"
46 "Jerusalem Delivered" poet
49 Legal document
52 Half of a fly?
53 Grippe

Friday's Puzzle Solved

S	T	A	X	■	E	V	A	N	■	I	N	F	E	R
L	A	I	R	■	N	E	R	O	■	F	I	O	N	A
A	L	D	A	■	Z	E	A	L	■	S	K	U	L	K
P	L	A	Y	B	Y	P	L	A	Y	■	I	R	A	E
■	■	■	E	L	M	S	■	■	O	U	T	B	I	D
O	O	C	Y	T	E	■	M	U	R	R	A	Y	■	■
A	L	A	E	■	S	H	A	R	K	S	■	F	O	B
H	A	S	S	O	■	A	L	G	■	A	G	O	N	Y
U	N	E	■	C	O	R	T	E	Z	■	L	U	C	E
■	■	B	A	H	A	M	A	■	A	W	A	R	D	S
D	R	Y	R	O	T	■	■	A	M	A	S	■	■	■
R	E	C	T	■	S	T	E	P	B	Y	S	T	E	P
A	W	A	I	T	■	A	C	R	E	■	J	O	S	E
P	A	S	E	O	■	A	T	O	Z	■	A	N	T	E
E	X	E	R	T	■	L	O	N	I	■	R	Y	A	N

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9/29/07

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

by Dave Green

				5		7		
		2		7				
4					2		9	3
9								
	2		9	8	5		1	
								4
7	3		8					6
				6		4		
		1		2				

Difficulty Level ★★★★

9/29

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Answer to previous puzzle

2	6	1	5	9	8	4	7	3
8	5	7	3	4	1	2	9	6
9	4	3	6	7	2	1	8	5
1	2	8	9	3	6	5	4	7
7	3	4	8	2	5	6	1	9
5	9	6	7	1	4	8	3	2
4	7	5	1	6	9	3	2	8
6	1	9	2	8	3	7	5	4
3	8	2	4	5	7	9	6	1

Difficulty Level ★★★★

9/28

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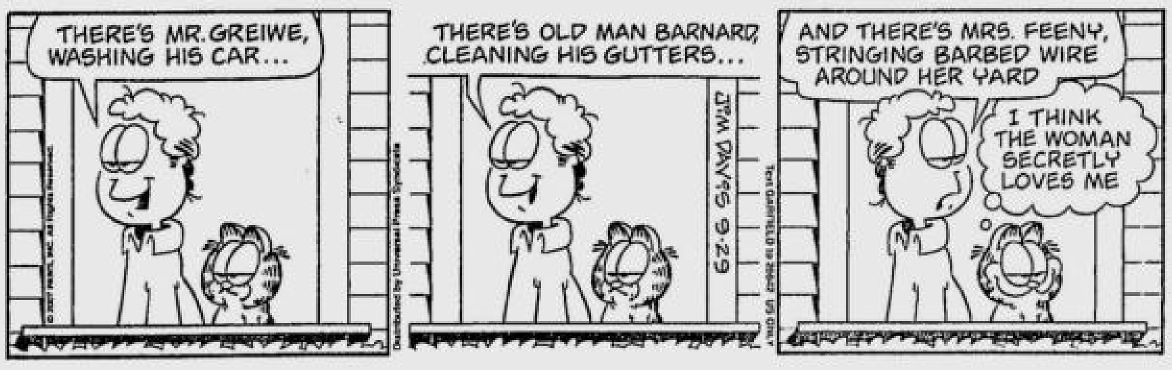
HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS


THERE'S MR. GREIWE, WASHING HIS CAR...
THERE'S OLD MAN BARNARD, CLEANING HIS GUTTERS...
AND THERE'S MRS. FEENY, STRINGING BARBED WIRE AROUND HER YARD
I THINK THE WOMAN SECRETLY LOVES ME
JIM DAVIS 9-29

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're a passionate romantic. You love flowers, candles, poetry—the works. You also have excellent business savvy and can make a lot of money. Work in the public sector, politics, reform or the entertainment world (film, teaching and writing) appeals to you. You like to combine business and pleasure. Your year ahead will focus strongly on partnerships and close friendships

Birthdate of: Jerry Lee Lewis, musician; Bryant Gumbel, TV newsman; Anita Ekberg, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Be careful about money transactions today. You might foolishly spend your money on something luxurious and extravagant, and then later regret it. You can avoid doing this.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): The Moon is in your sign today, and this is good. However, it makes a harsh aspect to both Neptune and Venus. This is not good. Don't push your luck. All is not as it appears today.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Relations with others might be confusing today. Quite likely, you'll be disappointed in something politically or religiously. Fortunately, it's probably not a big deal.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Friends are confusing today. Don't take anything too seriously. In fact, take everything with a grain of salt. Avoid arguments. Sidestep difficult confrontations.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Misunderstandings with bosses, parents and VIPs could occur today. Relations with others could be strained. Therefore, don't push the river. Take it easy. People easily jump to the wrong conclusions today.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Someone or something could disappoint you today. You might want to ask yourself if your expectations were realistic. Don't let anyone pull the wool over your eyes.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Be cautious if dividing something among others. Be careful how you handle other people's resources or money. There's a lot of room for confusion and error today.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Play it cool today. Don't demand your own way. There's something you're missing, and this could create difficulties with conversations with partners and close friends.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You might feel sympathetic toward a coworker today. Nevertheless, make sure you get all your facts first. Misunderstandings can occur easily today. (Don't fall for crocodile tears.)

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Your desire to have fun or enjoy yourself could lead you a bit astray today. Don't drink and drive. If you're doubtful about doing something, don't do it.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Conversations with family members are subject to confusion today. Someone could be disappointed or feel let down. Make sure you can stand behind whatever you say.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You might spend a lot of time daydreaming today. That's OK. Today a lot of people are absentminded and even confused! (Join the club—we number millions.)

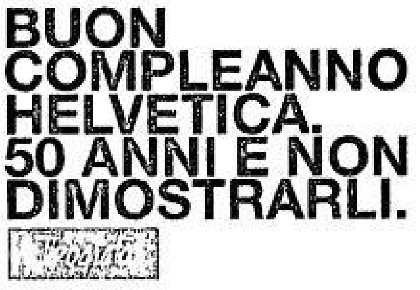
What the Helvetica?

The world's most omnipresent font blows fifty candles this year. A look at the hype behind the type.

OUT THE WINDOW
Tals Diaz

JUST WHEN YOU'RE BUSY thinking of way more important things—global warming, romantic cooling, prosti-tots invading your usual Monday haunt—something so refreshingly mundane comes along that deserves attention and two snaps up. The design world is celebrating the 50th year anniversary of ... drumroll please ... Helvetica!

Yes, that's Helvetica the font, and if, like me, you recognized that in an eyeblink, it's a telling sign of a long-term state of being velcro'd to Microsoft Word. To coincide with the font's fiftieth birthday, a new documentary film by Gary Hustwit, "Helvetica," has been released and is currently reaping rave reviews in the indie circuit. On the film's opening weekend in New York, font fans celebrated in the streets for their film topping the indie charts.


BUON COMPLEANNO HELVETICA. 50 ANNI E NON DIMOSTRARLI.

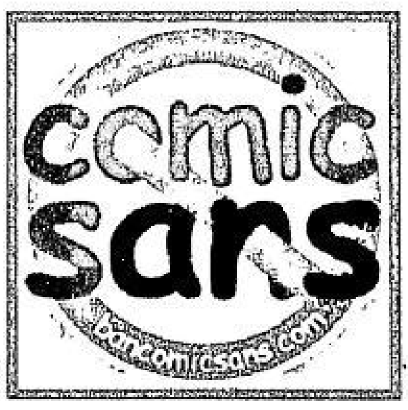
"Helvetica" globetrots around England, the Netherlands, Germany, Switzerland, the US, France and Belgium, and takes a closer look at typography and graphic design. The film examines how the ubiquity of one typeface in the world today affects people's lives. (You can get a few visual snacks of the docu in YouTube). "Helvetica is a club, it's a mark of membership, a badge," says one of the illustrious interviewees in the film. This admittedly OC examination of a typeface is a statement of a much bigger dialogue on the global design culture, which merges the worlds of graphic art, advertising, psychology and communication. All right, give me a few minutes of mental processing.

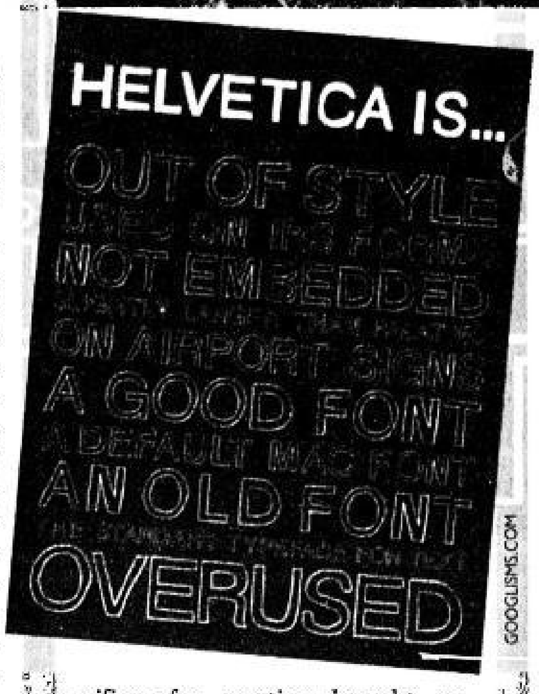
I'm still trying to wrap my brain around the concept of "font fans." Ay, those Wingdings!

The font phenomenon

The Helvetica typeface gets its name from *Helvetia*, the Latin name for Switzerland, where it was created in 1957 for the Haas Type Foundry. At that time, Swiss design was experiencing a surge in popularity, and this font soon after appeared in corporate logos, airport signages, and transportation systems. In 1984, it became and is the default font of Apple Macintosh, thereby further cementing its omnipresence.

Now, there are some really impassioned stalwarts in the design industry who have great reasons to love or loathe the typeface. One camp hails Helvetica as a design masterpiece that will never be topped, while the other camp views "Hel-f***in-vetica" as a signifier of a creative drought, an easy solution for lazy creatives.





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Comic relief

Such passion for typeface has likewise fueled anti-font campaigns. (Teehee! All this type hype is secretly exciting!) The Ban Comic Sans movement, which is "putting the sans in Comic Sans," wishes to put an end to the "epidemic of abuse" by urging people to stop using the playful, rounded font. Comic Sans, which was released by Microsoft in 1995, was originally designed for comic book style talk bubbles. Its spread and growing popularity was enough to incur a collective annoyance, and instigate revolt.

Ban Comic Sans declares, "these widespread abuses of printed type threaten to erode the very foundations upon which centuries of typographic history are built." Bringing it down to layman's terms, one impassioned anti-Comic sans video petition declares, "it's an annoying font. It is 1/3 larger than ordinary fonts. And the "C" is literally a semi-circle." (Well I'll be damned, the devil really *is* in the details.) The video goes on imagining a Comic Sans-dominated world, with the Hollywood sign looking like it was torn from a cartoon strip, and McDonalds resembling a bad mushroom trip.

Helvetica
50 years of style
1957-2007

Is all this much abuzz about nothing? Apparently not, if I were to judge by conversations among peers in the industry. One such starry-eyed font fan is Isabel Gatuslao, Hyatt's PR Manager, and design academic who first tipped me off about the film, "Helvetica." She pointed out that Helvetica is used everywhere, like the Lufthansa logo, the MRT stations, and even Team Manila's hypercool product line.

Others, like Beauty Editor (and close comrade) Cat Juan offered that she liked Helvetica, but preferred Arial. I've since then learned that the font Monotype Arial was created in 1982, and has been doggedly accused by fonties as a "Helvetica copycat." I think it just got a typeface-lift.

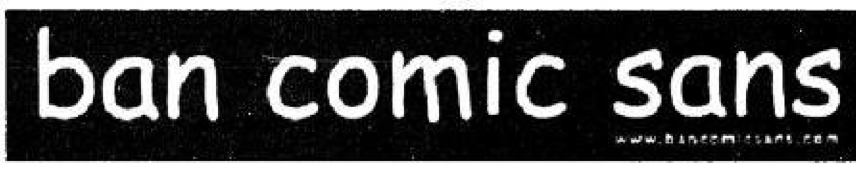
Personally, I prefer Arial, but I'm more of a Trebuchet MS kinda person. I pledged my allegiance to Trebuchet in the late 90s, while working as a copywriter in a design studio. My creative director back then had forbidden the use of Times New Roman in any document or layout, because he believed it promoted a default way of thinking. And so, I shot the serif.

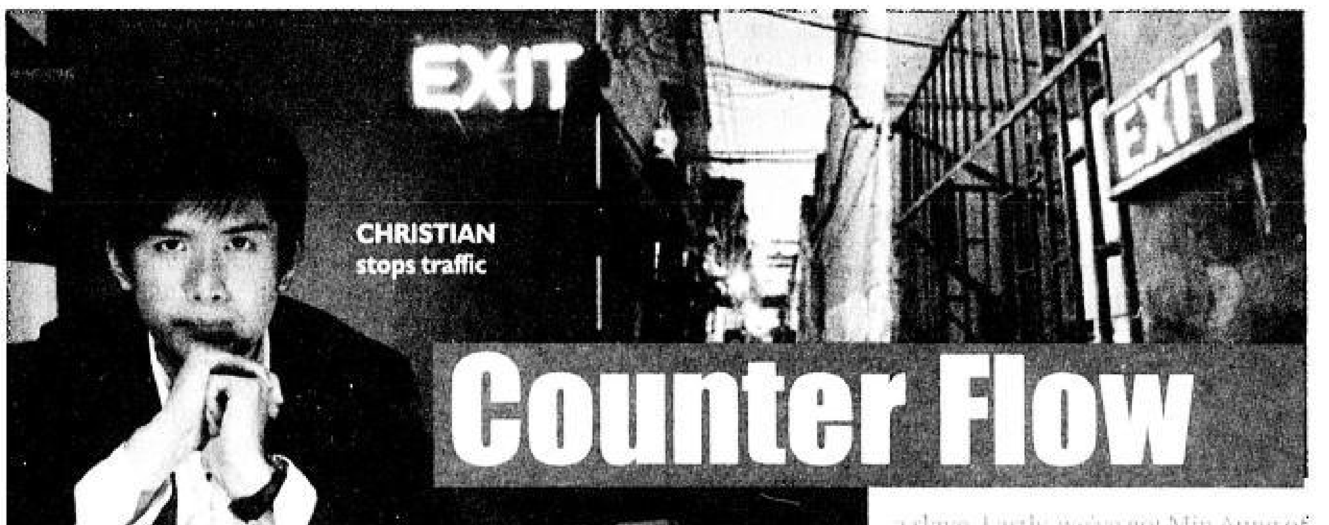
Happy mundane

We see thousands of words everyday of our lives and yet we don't realize the psychology behind the aesthetics; the emotions stirred by design. Font fanaticism, more than a silly First World fixation propagated by design nerds, is emblematic of the global visual cult. A tech-savvy, global visual culture, that is.

It's a case for championing both substance and style, which people have a tendency of divorcing, rather than recognizing the value of merging both. If something as quotidian as typeface has a subliminal impact in our everyday lives, then just imagine the impact of a creative class with an enhanced design sensibility.

It's a refreshing possibility. The Futura looks bright.





CHRISTIAN stops traffic

Counter Flow

By Wanggo Gallaga

SINCE AIRING 26 YEARS AGO, MTV has had to reinvent itself over and over. In the 90s, it was the go-to for everything new, hip and avant-garde. Now, it shares that space with YouTube and Facebook. In the early parts of this decade, MTV went wild and crazy with shows like Jackass and Punk'D. But eventually even they ran out of antics and stunts. It's an awkward transitory phase as technology has levelled the playing field and people run to either MTV or the World Wide Web for their trendsspotting. MTV now prepares for its next logical reinvention.

And so, as with many things in this world, everyone is turning towards advocacy. It's now cool to get off your asses and help others. Adopt a refugee baby or raise money in the fight against breast cancer. MTV rides this wave of goodwill and lends its trademark camera work and super fast visuals to a documentary with the hopes of ending human traffic.

People as trading goods

MTV Exit is a campaign that was launched in Europe in 2004 that aims to open up people's eyes on human traffic and to prevent it from happening. The campaign included a documentary presented by Angelina Jolie, the screening of fictional short films, public service announcements and live events.

AN EXIT or a trap?

Human trafficking is not getting stuck in line at the bank or at your (insert favorite fast food chain here). The United Nations has defined human trafficking as "the recruitment, transportation, and receipt of a person for sexual or economical exploitation by force, fraud, coercion, or deception." It's using people as trading goods. It's a criminal act that victimizes 2.5 million people at any one time and makes roughly 10 billion US dollars a year. It's second to illegal drugs. Most of the time, the victims are Asians who are looking for a better life somewhere.

MTV will air "Traffic," a documentary that details the human trafficking issue in Asia by following the stories of the victims. It starts with Anna, who was taken from her home in the Philippines and sold into prostitution. There is Eka, an Indonesian woman who was mislead into taking a job as a domestic helper in Singapore only to discover she was sold as a slave. Lastly, we've got Min Aung of Burma who was trafficked to Thailand and imprisoned to work in a factory for two years. "Traffic" is hosted by Christian Bautista in the Philippines and will be released in two versions, English and Filipino.

Arresting visuals

Told with edgy visuals, fast cuts and daring camera work, "Traffic" takes the dizzying, fast-paced and arresting presentation style of MTV to tell the dark and horrifying tales of people plucked from poverty into something even worse. And it's just like MTV to know exactly how much to show and what to withhold from its audience. At the end of the documentary, I wanted to know more. How did they end up interviewing an actual human trafficker? What happened to him? Did they jail the 21-year-old Taiwanese kid who likes to pay big bucks to have sex with abducted girls? What are Anna, Eka and Min Aung doing now? As always, MTV has its finger on how people want to see things.

US Ambassador to the Philippines Kristie Kenney commended MTV for "using popular entertainment as a means to educate people." MTV takes advantage of its sway on the youth to make important changes. As a pop culture brand, it is a logical step that if it were to raise awareness of this crime, well, tell it to the kids. If "Traffic" gets aired between the next Beyonce video and the new single of Kanye West, the message is bound to get across. Advocacy, after all, is the new cool.

"Traffic": An MTV EXIT Special presented by Christian Bautista (English version) will premiere on MTV Philippines on Oct. 18 at 8:30p.m. and will be repeated on Oct. 20, 9:30 p.m., Oct. 27 at 1 p.m. and Oct. 29 at 5:30 p.m. The Tagalog version will air on Oct. 24 at 3:30 p.m. and Nov. 2 at 10 a.m.

A Pilgrim Age

By Katrina A. Holigores

WE HAVE JUST ZIPPED THROUGH another month. Not a great believer in coincidences, I find it ironic that as we focus on speed this weekend I have just passed through the slow, sleepy town of Assisi in Italy, and have, over the last two weeks, been inside over a dozen churches. Being a flexible Catholic, I can appreciate certain aspects of the religion that I was born into but remain clueless (by choice) of many others. One tradition (no idea of the source) that I grew up with was the wish-making associated when entering a church for the first time. There are many versions of this ritual; some say you make one wish, and some say three. Suffice to say, the latter quantity is what I opted for each and every time I found myself in front of the nth altar for the day.

During this quasi pilgrimage I had a chance to observe my companions and a thousand strangers entering and exiting each of these historic and significant houses of worship. There were those of course who went in as it was part of the tour they had spent X amount of Euros on. There were the local tourists who entered and, depending on the level of their faith, opted to sit down, say a prayer, or just take a photo (no flash) and then make their way back outside. For me, the visits were a combination of both, a chance to digitally document some masterpieces in art and architecture and also, on a more personal note, to slow down, take a break and indulge in the solemnity and sheer energy of a space that has housed over a million prayers and represented a steady vestibule of hope.

Like a Prayer

To have faith is to believe, without a shadow of a doubt, in an intangible happy ever after. Wishes, like prayers, are said when nothing else in the physical world can help you so you throw your heart's desire out into the wide open flux of the divine. Wish granted? Some people ask for a sign, while some are content with the knowledge that someone or something out there has already heard and all they have to do is believe.

Faith is a funny, albeit powerful emotion. In my case, it has certainly lifted me over some of the more challenging potholes in my existence even if I have never subscribed to the more rigid norms that govern believing in God or a higher entity.

ILLUSTRATION BY DAE LEE

The wishes that I've said in silence I know have been jotted down and one day I will come to realize if they have indeed been granted. Of course, the "wait" or as a very wise friend of mine pointed out the incorrigible "in-between" stage is the hardest part, and this again is where putting your trust in the unknown (but still knowing—if that makes any sense at all) has to come into play.

I Saw the Sign

So, how do we trust? Just saying to think positive sounds as shallow as the almost casual way people use soul searching nowadays. "Letting go" is a phrase that makes sense but isn't easy to do, we revert back to old habits in order to find reassurance or affirmation that what we want we will get, and ASAP. Be patient? Try watching paint dry and you will see how easy that is especially when you are thoroughly convinced that your life will be so much better once wish 1-1000 is delivered to your doorstep.

Perhaps the best thing we can all do, in the time it takes from realizing what we want and actually getting it, is to grow up. To fully accept (with no sarcasm and rolling of eyes) that everything does happen for a reason and that the sooner we find out what that reason is we can better discern what to really wish. To put into full and utter belief that an omnipotent Santa Claus is making his or her list (and that we are on it) is the best we can hope for.

As I light another candle in one of the last churches of my trip, I look up and make my wishes and see sunlight slowly spreading across the ceiling and frescos. I feel like I've just received a knowing smirk from up above. Believe it or not.

TWENTY QUESTIONS. Elliot at the press conference

IN FRONT of shutterbugs and under the spotlights at Market Market. FRAN KATIGBAK

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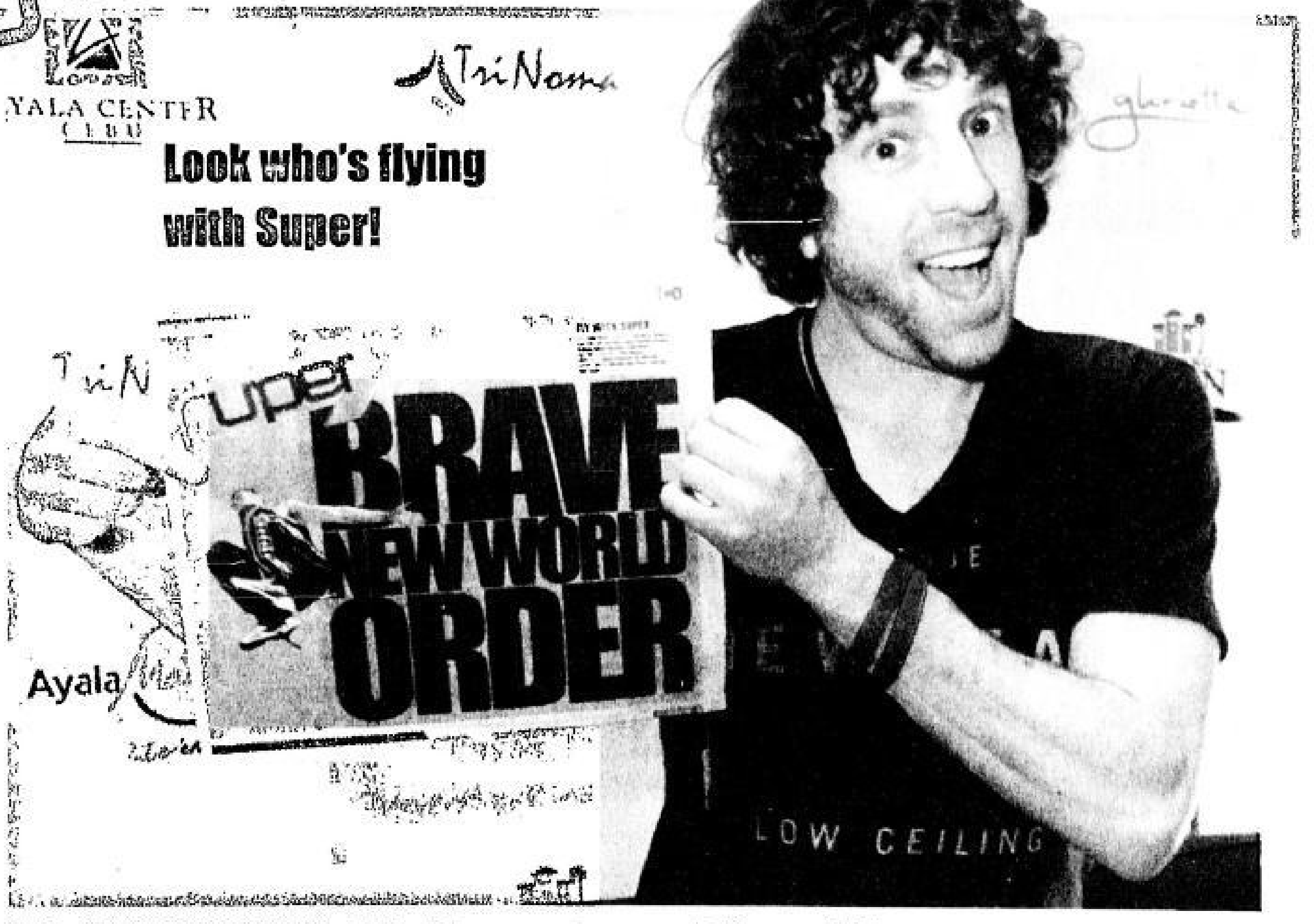
SIGNED album sleeve



Idol mind

From page D1

outside [the label company].

I'm just really working out the music and let my team on the outside handle all the other stuff. I'm not worried about being a one-hit wonder. We're going to release our second single from my record here soon in the next few weeks and I think that's going to be a hit. We'll just have to take it from there, take it a day at a time.

I think I have the ability to have a little bit of staying power in this business. My voice has a timeless, classic sound to it that people really enjoy and I think that will be what helps keep me around.

I also want to work with other artists and make appearances on somebody else's songs and records and collaborate with more people.

Did it bother you that Chris Daughtry, who was eliminated before you in "AI" Season 5, signed up to a record label and released an album before you did?

No, not at all. It wasn't a race to see who could put out music first the quickest. It never has been and it never will be. Once you're out of the show, the popularity contest was over. It was all about taking care of business and making sure I had everything lined up to become a recording artist and to put out music of my own.

In all honesty, first and foremost, I'm really happy for Chris and all the success he has experienced. I think that he helped pave the way for me and for everybody else from our season who have come out with albums. Him blowing up and getting all the success he's got has been great.

How was the "American Idol" tour?

It was amazing. We did 50 shows all over the country. Every night we'd be sold out and we'd be singing to 12 to 15 or 16 thousand people a night.

Personally, the tour was able to really help my skills onstage. I learned so much about touring and about the business, and about performing, singing and taking care of my voice. Everything you could possibly learn I learned. I thought being on American Idol, which was the first step, it was the greatest thing but then as you go out on tour and meet the fans for a change, doing all that was the best experience.

How about your album tour?

That was amazing. Every day is a tour for my album. Every day is a promotional day. If you have a record out, you're promoting it all the time. What we did about three months ago, we went on a radio tour. We visited as many radio stations as we could, which really helped set up sales for the record and get more people familiar with my music.

Did you expect this kind of welcome in the Philippines?

I did, but only because I knew how other Idols were received here. I'm really close friends with José Sway Peñala. He actually stayed with me for a week in my house in LA. He's coming out on the road with us on tour to sing backup. He's told me how Filipinos are and how they'll receive me here.

How do you compare performing on the "Idol" stage against performing on the album tour?

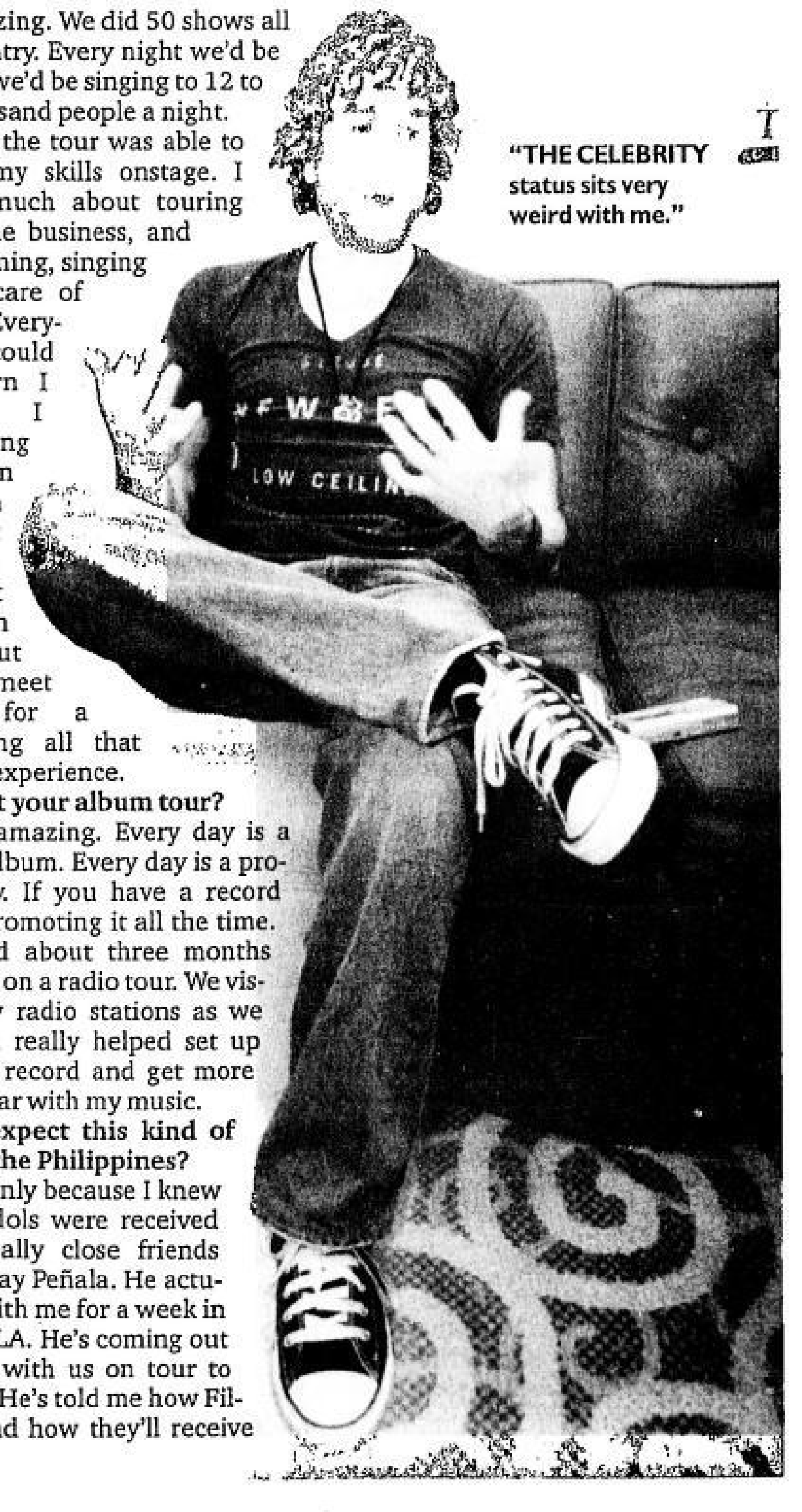
It's different because you have to understand it's a TV show first. There's not a big audience. You're really more playing to the camera lens. It's hard to fathom how fans are out there, how many people are watching you, but knowing that there are millions of people watching the show is a little unnerving. I think now I'm able to sing with ease, without being too nervous. I'm singing my own music and I'm not being judged on TV, so it (performing) comes a lot more easy and natural.

Describe your music. Can you say your album was everything you'd hoped for?

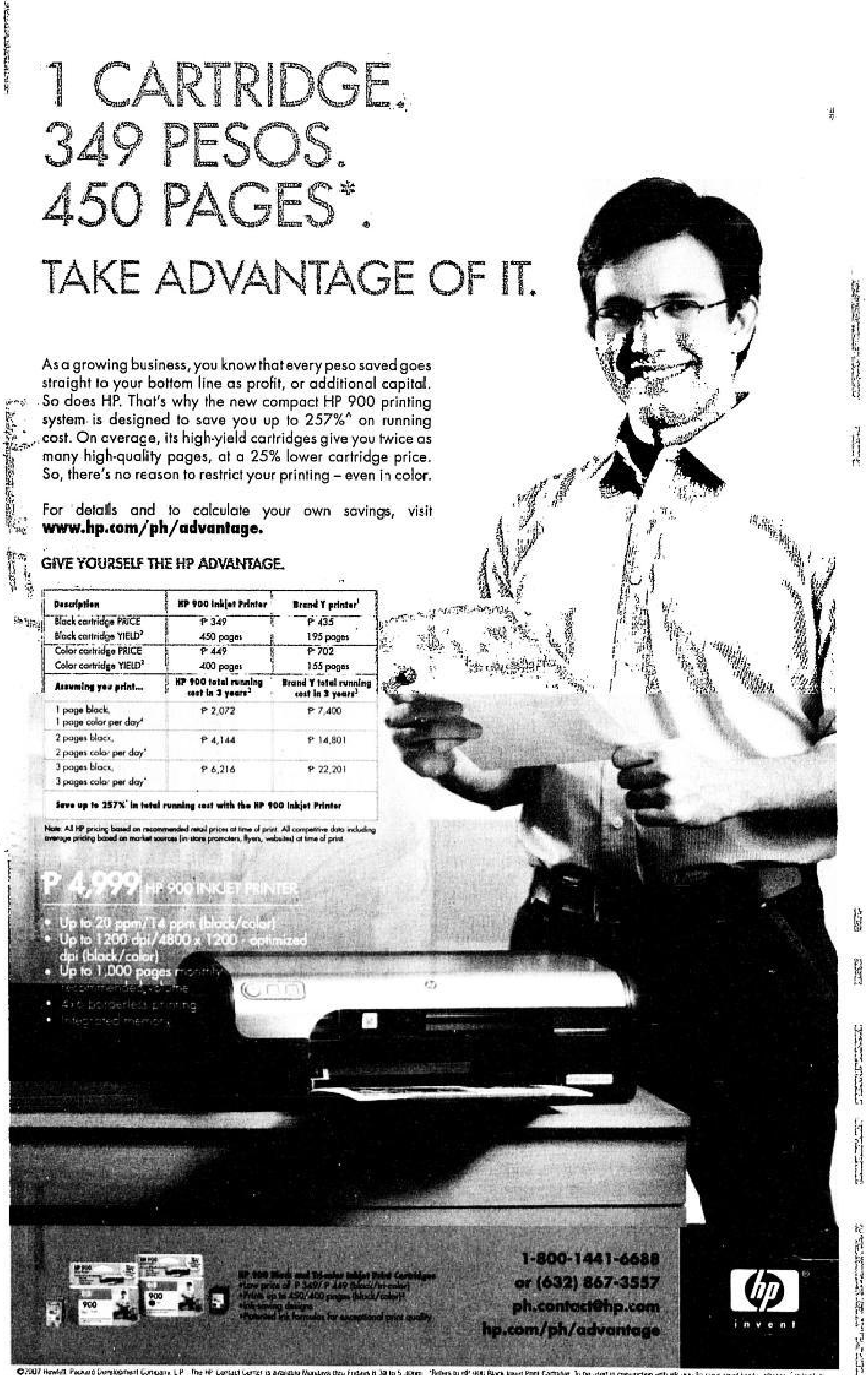
I would describe my music as being very soulful. It's a singer's type of album. I think any vocalist can really appreciate the vocal standpoint of the record. It's just genuinely good music that's natural to do. It comes from the heart and is very soulful.

If a major label offered you a contract, would you take it?

I have one more [record] to go on my independent label [Hickory Records]. And I want to continue doing it the way we're doing it for years to come. I like to have my own label one of these days and introduce the world to new artists—but that's later on down the line. I'm not even thinking about that right now. The situation would have to be right and it would have to be right in order [for me] to take it. Right now I'm not too focused on big labels or who'll come knocking. There's still a lot of work left to do on this record and that's where my focus is at.



"THE CELEBRITY status sits very weird with me."



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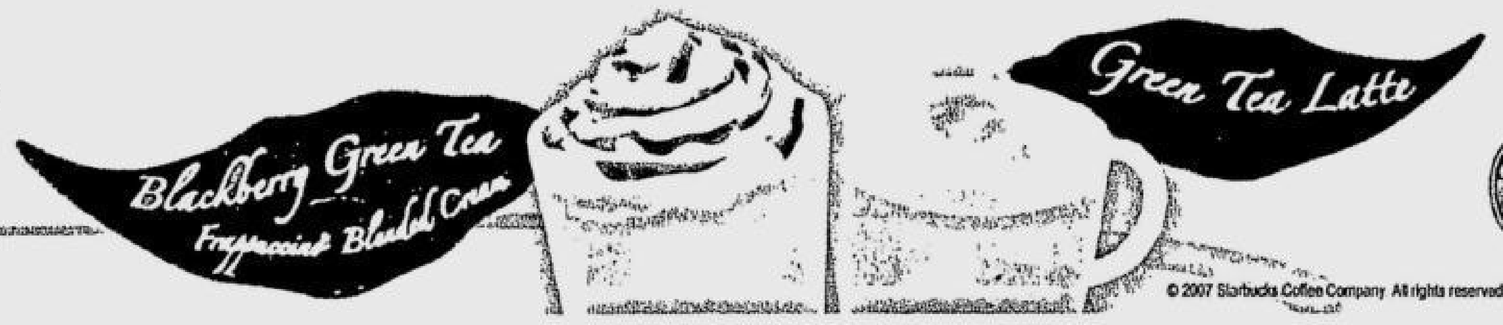
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CONCEPCION. Has a streak of independence that emboldened her to spend four years alone abroad. JOAN BONDOC

KC comes into her own in 'celebrity reality' special

By Nestor U. Torre

"CELEBRITY REALITY" TV SHOWS are popular in the US, with stars allowing camera crews to follow them everywhere for months. Viewers just love "peeping" into celebrities' private lives, hence the popularity of such reality programs.

On Philippine TV screens, the relatively new program type is not yet all that established, aside from celebrity wedding coverages.

Therefore, when we heard that Channel 2 was producing a reality special about KC Concepcion's stint as a student in Paris, we made it a point to catch the show last Sept. 23, seeing it as a precursor of other "celebrity reality" productions to come.

Bubbly personality

The special's strongest suits were the beautiful city of Paris and KC's own bubbly personality. The Parisian sights featured were truly eye-catching and KC had a light, bright way of dovetailing them into her recollections of her four memorable years in the City of Lights.

KC's personality is reminiscent of her mother Sharon's own sunny projection when she was a teenager. At first, viewers were caught off guard by all that cheerfulness, and some accused the young Sharon of faking it, of being too relentlessly nice to be believed.

Hindsight now tells us that those accusations were wrong, that Sharon was truly a giving, sharing person—so, that gets KC off the hook, since we must now also believe that her own cheerfulness is the real McCoy.

Having gotten that out of the way, we must now conclude that KC is indeed her mother's daughter—but, with unique fillips of her own.

Prospect

For one, she has a streak of independence that emboldened her to spend four years alone abroad—not a

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1 RESIDENT EVIL - 3
2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
3 NO RESERVATIONS
4 RESERVED

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Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 7334228
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
5 RESIDENT EVIL - 3

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2 DISTURBIA
3 1408
4 SHOOT THEM UP

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3 NO RESERVATIONS

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(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
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2 RESIDENT EVIL - 3
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3 RESERVED
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2 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
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Cinema 2000 Metrotown
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3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
4 DAY WATCH

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
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1 PILYA
2 DAY WATCH
3 I KNOW WHO KILL ME
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2

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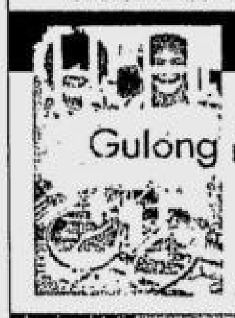
1 RESIDENT EVIL 3 • THX
12:30 2:45 5:00 7:15 9:30
2 RESIDENT EVIL 3
1:00 3:15 5:30 7:45 10:00
3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50
4 NO RESERVATION
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
5 ANG LALAKE sa PAROLA
12:40 2:30 4:20 6:10 8:00 9:50
6 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
7 THE BRAVE ONE
1:50 4:35 7:20 10:00
8 indieSine: GULONG
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00
9 SHOOT 'EM UP
1:00 3:10 5:20 7:30 9:40
10 ROGUE ASSASSIN
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00



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3 RESIDENT EVIL 3
12:35 3:00 5:25 7:45 10:00
4 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00
5 NO RESERVATION
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:25 10:00
6 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME 12:00 2:25
RESIDENT EVIL 3 4:50 7:10 9:25
7 ROGUE ASSASSIN
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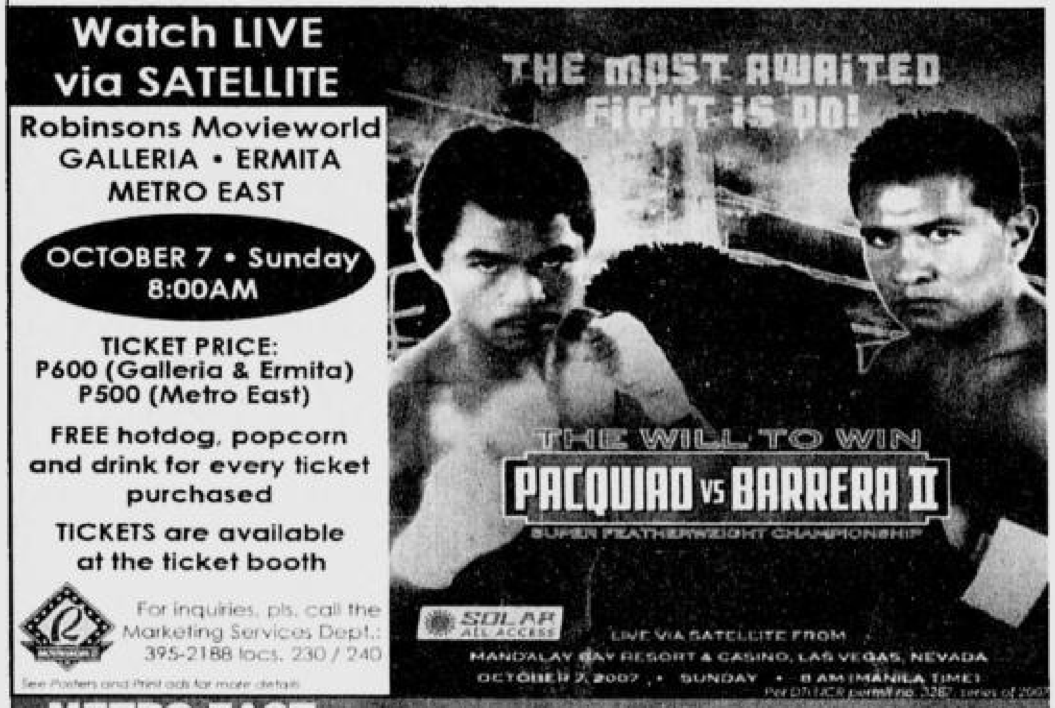
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3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
11:25 1:50 4:10 6:40 9:05
4 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME 11:20, 1:40
RESIDENT EVIL 3 4:00 6:20 8:40
5 ROGUE ASSASSIN
12:05 2:15 4:25 6:40 9:00
6 THE BRAVE ONE
1:10 3:40 6:20 9:00
7 NO RESERVATION
11:05 1:35 4:05 6:35 9:05
8 SHOOT 'EM UP
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

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1:40 4:00 6:20 8:40
2 RESIDENT EVIL 3
11:40 1:55 4:10 6:25 8:40
3 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
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3 1408

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6 STOMP THE YARD

DIRECTOR'S CUT

Raya Martin finds challenge in exploring, experimenting

By Ronald G. Mangubat

YOU EITHER LOVE OR HATE Raya Martin's movies. In recent interviews, the 23-year-old writer-director of "Autohystoria," recently shown at the Cinemanila festival, admits that this is true.

A lover of experimental and *avant garde* cinema, Martin, the first Filipino filmmaker to be accepted at the Cinéfondation Résidence of the Cannes Film Festival, finds challenge in exploring and experimenting with new filmmaking styles. He explains: "I like veering away from the norm to express new concepts and ideas."

Martin graduated from the University of the Philippines Film Institute in 2005. He first worked as a writer and researcher for television shows, newspapers, radio programs and online magazines.

His short film, "The Visit," won the Ishmael Bernal Award for Young Cinema at the 2004 Cinemanila International Film Festival, and his docu, "The Island at the End of the World," won best documentary at the 2005 .mov International Digital Film Festival.

Retrospective

His first feature film, "Short Film about the Indio Nacional (Or The Prolonged Sorrow of the Filipinos)," won the Lino Micciché Award at the 2006 Pesaro International Film Festival, Italy. This year, the Buenos Aires Festival Internacional de Cine Independiente featured a retrospective of his films.

The filmmaker is currently in the preproduction stage of his latest project, "Independencia," which recently received the Prince Claus Film Grant of the International Film Festival in Rotterdam. Excerpts from our interview:

What is "Autohystoria" about?

It's essentially a reenactment of the execution of Andres Bonifacio and his brother, Procopio, in 1897, but it's also about me and my brother. I thought of the idea of defining dreams in filmic terms, the same way many filmmakers would adapt reality to film.

How many films have you made?

I've done three full-length features: "The Island at the End of the World" is a documentary on Itbayat, the last inhabited island in northern Philippines, which is part of Batanes; "Short film about the Indio Nacional" is set in the 1890s just before the Philippine Revolution, and "Autohystoria."

Mysterious identity

I also have a couple of short films: "Bakasyon," about a city girl who discovers her grandmother's mysterious identity in the province; "Life Projections" is an experimental film on the Guimaras oil spill, and "Track Projections" is about travelling abroad.

MARTIN. "Anything and everything is possible."

What keeps you busy these days?

I'm shooting three feature films billed as one—it's a collection of stories from my childhood, as well as about filmmaking. I'm also developing "Independencia," a family drama set in the woods during the American occupation.

Tell us about your Cannes Residency.

The experience changed me, not only as a filmmaker, but as a person. It was my first time to be away from the country by myself for almost six months, having just graduated from the university. I was culture-shocked!

Different cultures

Cinefondation is the most prestigious film residency in the world. Martin Scorsese and Abbas Kiarostami are two of its leaders. Pierre Viot, who heads the foundation, was Cannes' festival director for many years. I learned about international coproductions, pitching and presentation, art and film aesthetics, and I was learning about different cultures at the same time.

How has Kidlat Tahimik, one of your mentors, influenced your work?

His influence was more on attitude towards filmmaking. His vision is uncompromising—which is the most important lesson I learned from him!

What drove you to filmmaking?

When I was younger, I used to do still photography and played with the analog video camera. I have an affinity for images. At the time, I thought the only way to get into filmmaking was through film school, but I eventually learned that wasn't true. By then, I had already graduated from the university, saw many films, and met people.

Are you willing to make full-length mainstream features?

Yes. The horror genre fascinates me. I'd love to do something like Peque Gallaga and Lore Reyes' "Aswang."

What advice can you give to people who want to pursue filmmaking?

Anything and everything is possible.

What is your film philosophy?

Life is film, and film is life!

KC comes...

From page E1

comfortable prospect for many young people to the manor born.

She also dared to get to know her US-based father, Gabby, after years of estrangement. We don't know about you, but we think *that* took guts.

Qualities

On her Paris special, KC demonstrated those qualities in action in different situations, so the show was generally involving and occasionally eventful.

On the minus side, the special was too long for its relatively slight subject matter, and the stretching showed. There were also too many details—KC even pointed to the chair on which she sat for one of her classes at her school.

Honestly, we're not *that* interested in *everything* she did there, and the show suffered from a surfeit of less-than-tantalizing trivia.

Friendship

But, the special ended on a high note, with KC revealing her friendship with an OCW named Leslie, who had worked in Paris for years to enable her daughters back home to complete their studies. By Leslie's own reckoning, she had seven more years of servitude before she could go home.

It was instructive to see KC relating so personally to Leslie, even if they came from different worlds. And her friendship with the OCW added more warmth to her already appealing persona, revealing the thoughtfulness and ability to empathize behind her dazzling smile. —Her mother's daughter, indeed.

Rico Ilarde...

From page E3

see people falling in love with him, because they'll see his vulnerability. *Malaki ang* emotional investment *niya*, and he's in great physical shape—just like a real boxer!" The film was shot in eight days.

It has been a rough but satisfying ride for Ilarde, who's been trying to break into the movie industry since 1998. He doesn't mind getting labeled as a horror director. He reasons: "If the label comes with me getting some respect in this industry, I'll take it!"

Subjective coverage on TV

By Nestor U. Torre

HAVE YOU NOTICED? SHOW biz-oriented talk shows on TV profess to report all of the hottest entertainment news as completely as possible—but, when the event involves a network or its rival, that's far from what viewers actually get.

What happens is, if the event negatively affects Channel A, the channel sometimes delays reporting it, or presents a sanitized, self-exculpating version.

For its part, its rival, Channel B, goes to town whipping the event up into a scandal, the better to denigrate its rival.

Point of view

This is understandable from the competitive point of view, but unacceptable on point of broadcast journalism's vaunted standards of objective reportage.

Instead of being of scrupulous service to viewers in this regard, competitive channels sometimes cover up their errors or lash out at rivals to emerge victors in the ratings and image games.

The wonder is that many viewers take this subjective coverage without complaining, lulled by their cluelessness, or by the mistaken notion that this is "just" show biz news and scandal, after all, so it shouldn't be taken seriously.

This is an unfortunate misconception, because show business has become one of the most influential fields in the nation's collective life—like it or lump it.

So, the shoddy and compromised behavior seen on TV could cynically influence some viewers to be similarly cavalier about principles and rules in their own spheres of activity.

Game show

The latest such "he said, he said" event "covered" or "covered up" on show biz talk shows and even on some evening newscasts is the altercation between Willie Revillame and Joey de Leon over a perceived booboo in the handling of Willie's game show.

Each talent's respective channel rallied to his side, and appeared to see the booboo from different perspectives, leaving viewers in the dark as to what had really transpired.

This is unfortunate, because news reports are precisely supposed to provide objective service. When channels take sides too loyally or defensively, the viewer loses out.

The same thing happened with the Ruffa-Yilmaz split. Ruffa's channel underscored her hurt and battered feelings, while the rival channel presented Yilmaz's side.

Even when viewers switched back and forth for both versions, confusion continued to reign in this other "he said, she said" contretemps.

Evidence

Viewers looked around for a channel that would present both sides and objectively analyze the evidence at hand, but little such dispassionate coverage was to be had.

Again, the strange thing is that, most viewers appear to accept this subjective state of affairs as "just the way it goes."

In so doing, they are shortchanging themselves and end up enabling TV channels to continue "spinning" the show biz news, leaving the viewing public in the dark. Let there be light!

Rico Ilarde pulls another indie surprise

By Rica Arevalo

FOR ALMOST A DECADE NOW, RICO Ilarde has been carving his own niche in the film industry with his peculiar way of cinematic storytelling. But, the filmmaker is not through coming up with surprises.

Ilarde has just finished shooting "Altar," his entry to this year's Cinema One film fest, which stars Zanjoe Marudo as a disgraced Filipino boxer who comes home after he accidentally kills an opponent in the ring.

To make ends meet, he applies for work doing repairs on an isolated house at the outskirts of Metro Manila. This is where he meets the character of Nor Domingo. The foreman (Dido dela Paz) who hired them has only one stern warning: Don't go to the basement at all cost! They are soon haunted by a ghost (Dimples Romana).

Appreciative

Why did he join Cinema One? He relates: "Ronald Arguelles has been repeatedly asking me to submit an entry. Cinema Onegave us the freedom to shoot our entries the way we wanted, and the people behind it were appreciative and supportive even during the scripting stage! Plus, the release of money came on time."

MARUDO. Plays a boxer in "Altar."

Initially, Ilarde had reservations about hiring Marudo, but the pros eventually outweighed the cons. He explains: "Zanjoe has been a pleasant surprise! He's a solid performer—he's a natural. I can

RICO/ E2

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THE BRAVE ONE 4:10/9:30
I KNOW WHO KILLED ME 1:50/6:30
Globe PLATINUM CINEMA
DOLBY DIGITAL-EX
I 'VE FALLEN FOR YOU [illegible]
ROUGE ASSASSIN 4:10/9:00
NO RESERVATION 1:00/3:40/6:20/9:00
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DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS
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Kaisa's hit musical revue vivifies Chinese-Filipino community's aspirations

(FROM TOP) Helen Benoza, Mica Torre and Eva Poon in a dramatic musical highlight from the Legend of the Pagoda mini-Chinese opera.

LAST SEPT. 14 AND 15, THE Chinese-Filipino community was enthralled by the first three performances of a musical revue presented by the Kaisa Para sa Kaunlaran Foundation at its own theater in Intramuros.

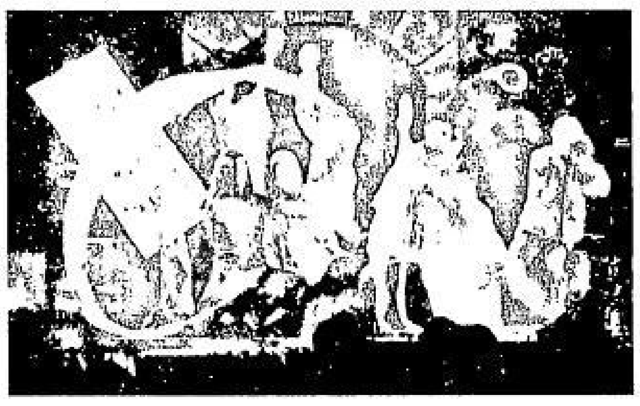
The show dazzled SRO audiences with its exhilarating kaleidoscope of scenes and songs that beautifully vivifies a wide range of the Chinese-Filipino experiences, issues and involvements, culminating in a dramatic focus on volunteer firefighters.

Raves

Written and directed by Nestor U. Torre, with songs composed by Jun Murillo, the "Kaisa Ka" musical revue won raves from members of the audience, prompting the Kaisa Foundation to schedule four more performances on Nov. 4 and 6 at popular prices, so that students, young professionals and the general public can also enjoy the acclaimed presentation.

George Yang, owner of the McDonald's franchise in the country, urged every Chinese-Filipino to see the show. He also recommends that Kaisa "promote the show to Filipinos so that they would have a better understanding" of the Chinese-Filipino experience.

Jose Mari Chan shared:" "It was wonderful to work with such talented, dedicated and hardworking people. It was a great show! I'll be here for the November run!"



THE "INCANTATION" production number magically leads viewers into the distant past.

Mel Tiangco gushed, "I was like a little girl mesmerized by the optical illusion of the martial arts tableau in black and white!"

Dr. Mario Miclat, UP Diliman, described the show as "a beautiful musical played wonderfully by an enthusiastic, talented ensemble. If we say history is written by victors, the musical shows how the Chinoy—as a concept, reality and identity—has become part of a victorious Philippine nation."

Therese Tan: "*Ang ganda talaga!* Original! At par, even better than other leading productions. Highly recommended for all Chinese schools and Chinese-Filipino organizations to sponsor and attend."

Historical aspects

Cynthia Ongpin Valdes: "Very moving, with humor, also very inspiring. The Pagoda scene brings us closer to the poignancy and sorrow of the families left behind by the Chinese migrants. A very entertaining show with historical aspects, it depicts depths of feeling."

Mely Co shared that she related personally to the scene depicting the marriage between a *Chinoy* and *Pinoy*.

Prof. Aurora Roxas Lim from Ateneo de Manila University sums up what Kaisa's show wants to say: "It is a triumphant celebration and a profound message conveyed by the dedicated and determined service of the different sectors of the Chinese-Filipino community."

If you want Kaisa's acclaimed musical to be performed for your school or organization, call 527-6083 or 482-0512.

MASSACRE scene moved some members of the audience to tears.

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SATURDAY Special

Jodie Foster avoids gossip by being 'boring'

FOSTER. Managed to avoid the downbeat child-star syndrome.

RUBEN V. NEPALES

Only IN Hollywood

Ruben V. Nepales

LOS ANGELES—"I'M BORING," Jodie Foster answered with a laugh when she was asked why she rarely figures in gossip columns.

The actress is anything but boring, as she demonstrated in our interview with her. In Toronto for the film festival premiere of her movie, "The Brave One," the Yale University magna cum laude graduate talked about topics we don't always read about or hear her discuss—being a mother to two boys (Charles, 9, and Kit, who turns 6 today), how she managed to avoid the child-star syndrome and become a successful and sane adult thespian—and her fears.

Subject matter

The latter subject matter was fueled by the theme and title of her vigilante film, "The Brave One." She portrays a social commentator on radio who avenges the murder of her boyfriend. She buys a gun and starts killing the lowlifes she encounters on the streets of New York.

When we asked Terrence Howard to comment on her award-winning co-star in a separate interview, he gave a revealing and insightful answer: "Jodie is very private. Even when she shares herself with you, she still holds back 90 percent of herself. But, the 10 percent encompasses so much more than the average person can imagine sharing.

"I don't know if I could even hold the 10 percent that she shared with me! But, she was generous in the fact that she led me through what a lead actor does in a film, in the same way that Robert Downey Jr. did for me in 'Iron Man.' She showed me the proper steps to take."

The actor added, "I was guided by her determination to stay true to the character. The truth of the storyline mattered to her more than what looked great on camera. Jodie and Robert are two actors I revere the most! They fight for the truth. Let the character fall and die, but keep the story true—no matter what happens!"

Jodie's director, Neil Jordan ("The Crying Game"), saw her practical side: "She gets instructions very quickly. She's smart and tireless. She never goes off to her trailer. She does not have many assistants. She just waits in the street while you work on your shot." Excerpts from our interview:

You are one of few major Hollywood stars who rarely figure in gossip columns. The common explanation is, you command a lot of respect. What's yours?

I'm boring *(laughter)*. Honestly, it's a combination of many things. I'm also 45 years old, so I'm not Lindsay Lohan. I'm not as interesting as the young people out there who are awake at 10 o'clock at night while I'm asleep *(laughter)*.

Very hard lessons

I've been in the public eye since I was 3 years old. You learn some very hard lessons at an early age about how important it is to compartmentalize your life. You make sure you have your life—and that it's not taken away from you by the circus of celebrity.

You're the model of a child actress who started very young, yet you successfully transitioned into a responsible adult actress. What do you think when you see young actors failing to keep it together?

It was a different time when I was growing up. When I was 18—stupid, crazy, living in New York, staying out late and all that stuff—people didn't have lenses this long (she opened her arms wide). And they didn't follow me around. Also, 18-year-olds then didn't make so much money.

Opportunities

At the time, if you were doing teen movies, you weren't worth much because they wanted to wait and see who you were going to evolve into as an actor. You were given the time to become meaningful as an actor, to make mistakes, to try the legitimate stage and dabble in different types of movies. I don't think young people these days are given those opportunities.

Also, I had people who loved and protected me. Kids now need people who would love them way more than I was. I'm not sure if that is always present

JODIE/ F3

Baptismal weddings, very conversational paintings and other boob-tube booboos

By Nestor U. Torre

HOST: WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO SHOW US TODAY?

Guest: How to do a complete make-over for a special occasion, so you will look elegant and stand out.

Host: Like what kind of occasion?

Guest: Like, if you attend a baptismal wedding!

(A baptismal wedding? —And baby makes three?)

* * *

Host: Tell us more about yourself.

Guest: Well, I'm a lawyer—I am married—and I am three children!

(Stop right there!)

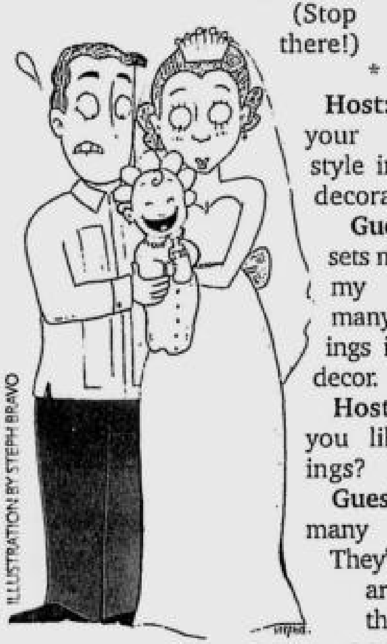

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

* * *

Host: What is your personal style in interior decoration?

Guest: What sets me apart is my use of many paintings in interior decor.

Host: Why do you like paintings?

Guest: For many reasons: They're very artistic—they're also a good investment —and to have an art piece in your room is very conversational!

(Conversational paintings? How —unconventional!)

* * *

Host: With so many political and financial scandals exploding all around us, what can we, the people, do?

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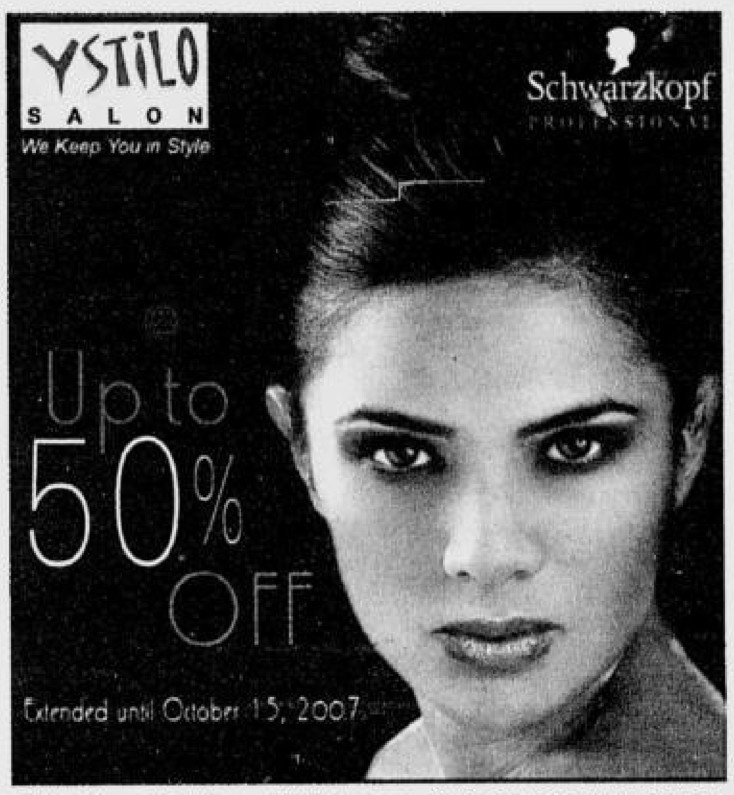

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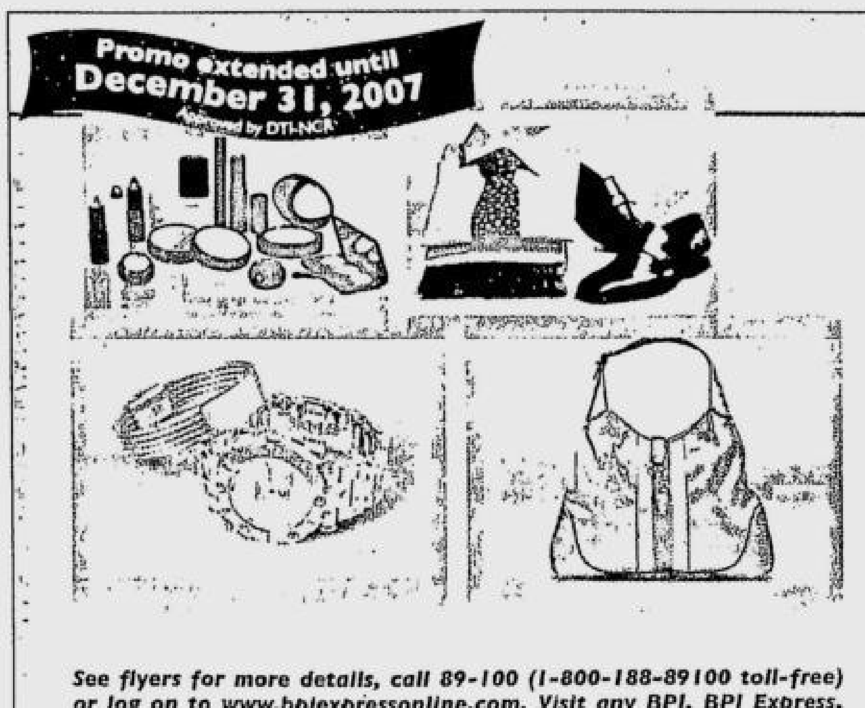

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Water as preventive therapy

ARE YOU HAVING difficulty remembering things? Do you feel tired all the time? You may be suffering from dehydration!

Water can be used as preventive therapy. It's so critical to body metabolism that the lack of it can trigger problems that result in slow recall, tiredness, constipation, formation of kidney stones and cancer.

Basic facts

In Jane Scrivner's book, "Water Detox," she describes basic facts about water dehydration that people should know. Here are some of them:

- On a hot day, a person can sweat up to 16 glasses of water per day.
- Not drinking enough water can lead to dry and itchy skin, tiredness upon waking, and fatigue during the day.
- We lose as much water when we're sleeping as when we're awake. Therefore, upon waking up, drink water and hydrate yourself well.
- Lack of water is the primary cause of tiredness.
- Eight to 10 glasses of water a day could ease up to 80 percent of general aches and pains. Water is not only a thirst quencher, it's also a pain reliever.
- It only takes a two percent drop in hydration to slow down recall. This can cause trouble with performing basic math and focus. Students and office workers should be encouraged to drink water for their mental and physical well-being. It's better to have water breaks than coffee breaks to improve productivity and performance.
- Five glasses of water a day decrease the risk of colon cancer by 45 percent.
- Five glasses of water a day cut the risk of breast cancer by 79 per cent.
- Five glasses of water a day reduce the risk of bladder cancer by 50 percent.

Critical

Although water is critical to normal body functions, it's sad to note that approximately 90 percent of the world's population is chronically dehydrated.

Worse, there are many ads encouraging people to consume colas, coffee and beer, but there's no ad telling people to drink water.

But, this can be reversed. We need to develop proper water drinking habits. I have friends who always bring water bottles with them and set an amount to consume daily. Educators, health personnel, office managers and parents can play a major role in training people under their care to hydrate properly.

Drinking the right amount of water can improve the quality of life. Let's have a water toast to that: Happy drinking!

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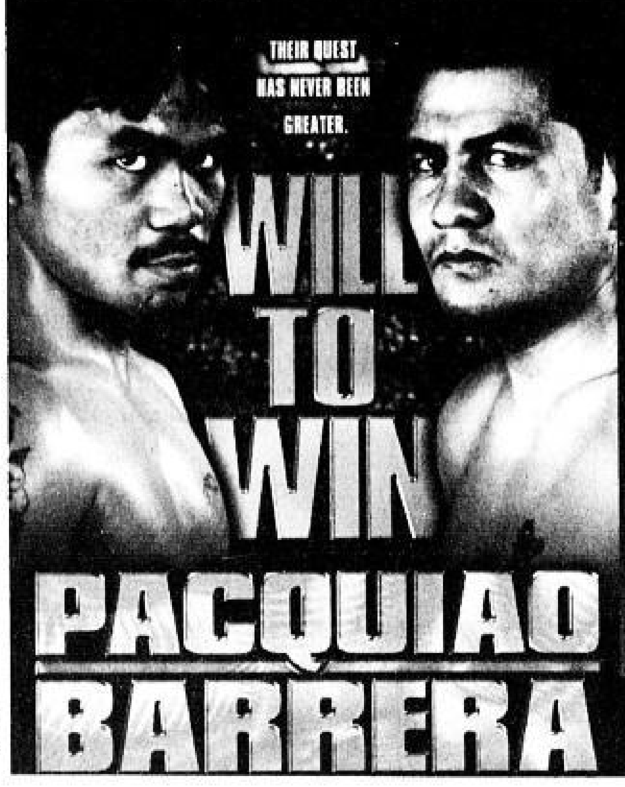
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2 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK AND LARRY
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6 CARTOON NETWORK/RESIDENT EVIL
7 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU
8 THE LAST LEGION

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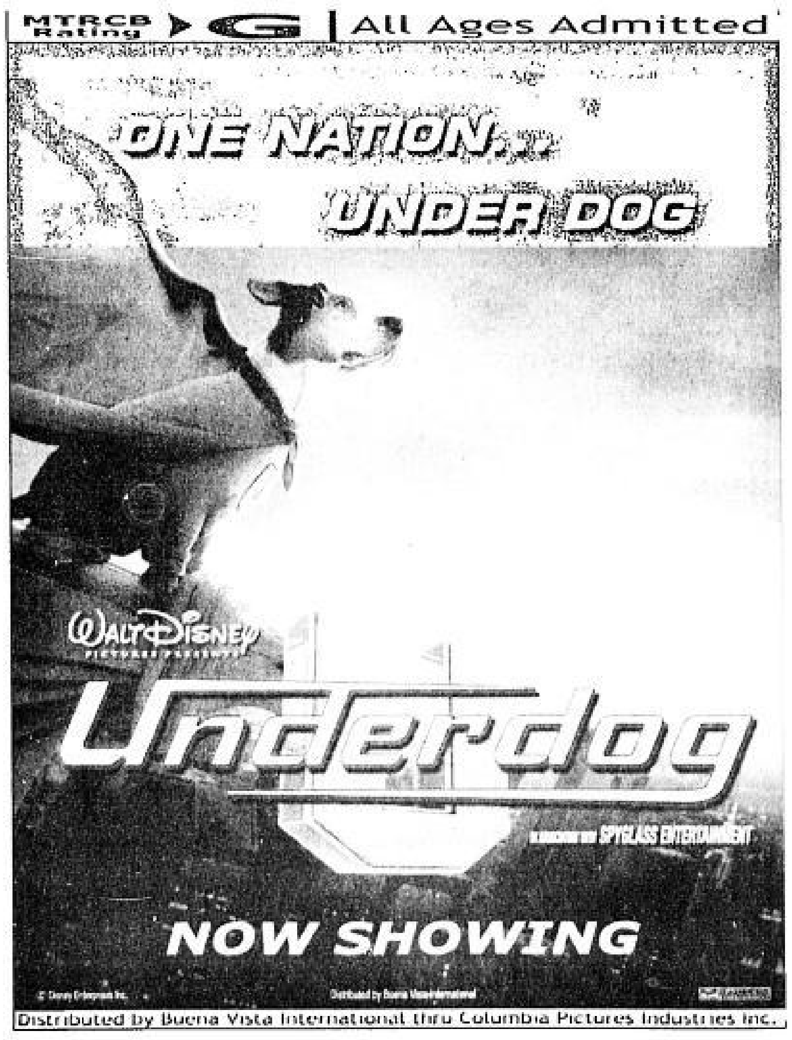

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3 NO RESERVATIONS 1:05, 3:35, 6:05, 8:35, 11:00 G
4 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU 2:05, 4:35, 7:05, 9:50 G

Jodie Foster avoids gossip by being 'boring'

From page F1

in their lives. I ask this sometimes of grown-up actors: "Didn't somebody tell them not to do that?" Because I have to tell you, I grew up with people telling me not to do things!

I grew up with my mom who had rules about certain things, like when you're done for the day on the set, you hang up your clothes. Don't just leave them in a pile on the floor! I had a thousand rules on how one should behave as a professional, or how you make sense of a world that has no reality to it. I mean, people bring you cappuccinos 25 times a day—that's not real life! That was my soap box for today.

Mother

What does being a mother of two boys involve?

There's a lot of cooking, picking up their clothes, taking them to places, disciplining, helping with the homework, and taking care of them.

What do you like to do for fun?

We like to ski. They love animals, so we take them to wildlife preserves or we go snorkeling.

Marriage is touched on in the beginning of "The Brave One." What are your views on marriage?

Gosh, I'm so not the person to ask for social commentary. I really have no idea. I came from a single-parent family. I don't necessarily think that's the ideal way to live life—but that's the way it was with my mom. I'm here and I'm not crazy (laughing)!

How brave are you?

I don't think I'm brave at all. I'm fearless in my work, but my work is not reality—it's art. I'm brave about my art, but I don't know if I'm brave in life. Maybe that's why I'm compelled to do things in films that allow me to explore the other sides of myself. I don't know if I'd survive if those things really happened in the real world!

FOSTER (WITH CO-STAR TERRENCE HOWARD, RIGHT). Topbills Neil Jordan's vigilante drama, "The Brave One."

Fears

Have you ever felt total fear? How do you deal with your fears?

I've definitely felt total fear in my life. But, it's not something that rules me. We all had moments of fear in our lives—like fear for your children, for example.

There are lines in "The Brave One" that are so beautiful. My character says, "I used to think that fear belonged to other people, weaker people. Then one day, it touched me! When it touches you, you know it's been there all along!"

What are the scariest things you've done?

The scary things that I love to do are skiing and scuba diving. They're beautiful expressions of the body, but if you don't pay attention, you're going to die (laughing)!

Have you owned a hand gun?

Yes, I have when I was too young to understand what a mistake that was. As soon as I did understand, I got rid of the gun!

What was the mistake?

I don't believe that guns should be in the hands of human beings. I don't want anything underneath my fingertips that could kill another person. I could lose control of my emotions. When that happens, I don't want anything at my fingertips that would take another life.

Do you agree with the D.H. Lawrence

JODIE/ F4

Getting ready for a younger look

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

COSMETIC SURGEON Dr. Raul Guanzon says the best time to get a facelift is when you feel you're ready for it. A facelift is not a one-shot deal—a patient still has to go through post-operative care, monitoring and maintenance.

One has to be psychologically prepared for this, adds Guanzon, who has been a cosmetic surgeon for 20 years. The feeling of being ready usually happens when one reaches 40 and older.

Guanzon notes that a growing number of women in their 30s have been availing of preventative facelift in order to prolong their youthful appearance.

Improvement

In contrast, while a person who undergoes a facelift in his late 50s will still display remarkable improvement after the surgery, his muscles will be overstretched, so the improvement won't last as long as with a younger patient.

Guanzon's next advice: Shop around for a good cosmetic surgeon. Make sure you know where your physician was trained. What are his qualifications? Get referrals from satisfied patients.

According to Dr. Guanzon, the major areas that normally benefit from a facelift are: The upper face (from the forehead to the eyebrow); the mid-face or beauty area (which involves the nose, eyes and cheeks), and the lower face and neck (where aging takes the form of jowl lines).

There are also procedures that remove unsightly eyebags, make the eyes deep-set, enhance the nose, reduce or enhance the lips. For more complicated procedures, there are operations for body contouring and breast augmentation.

For working people who prefer installment payments on their procedure of choice, there are "beauty loans" available.

For more information, visit Dr. Guanzon's Cosmetic Surgery and Laser Center in San Juan (Suite 301, Greenhills Mansion, 37 Annapolis st., Greenhills), Libis (second floor, WebJet bldg., Acropolis, Libis), or Bacolod City (No. 12 12th st., Bacolod City). Call 722-4972 or 683-0448.

* * *

Join the Batanes Photo Safari on Dec. 27-30 when the sea is placid. Or join the scheduled trips from January to May 2008.

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GUANZON. "Preventative surgical procedure prolongs youthful appearance."

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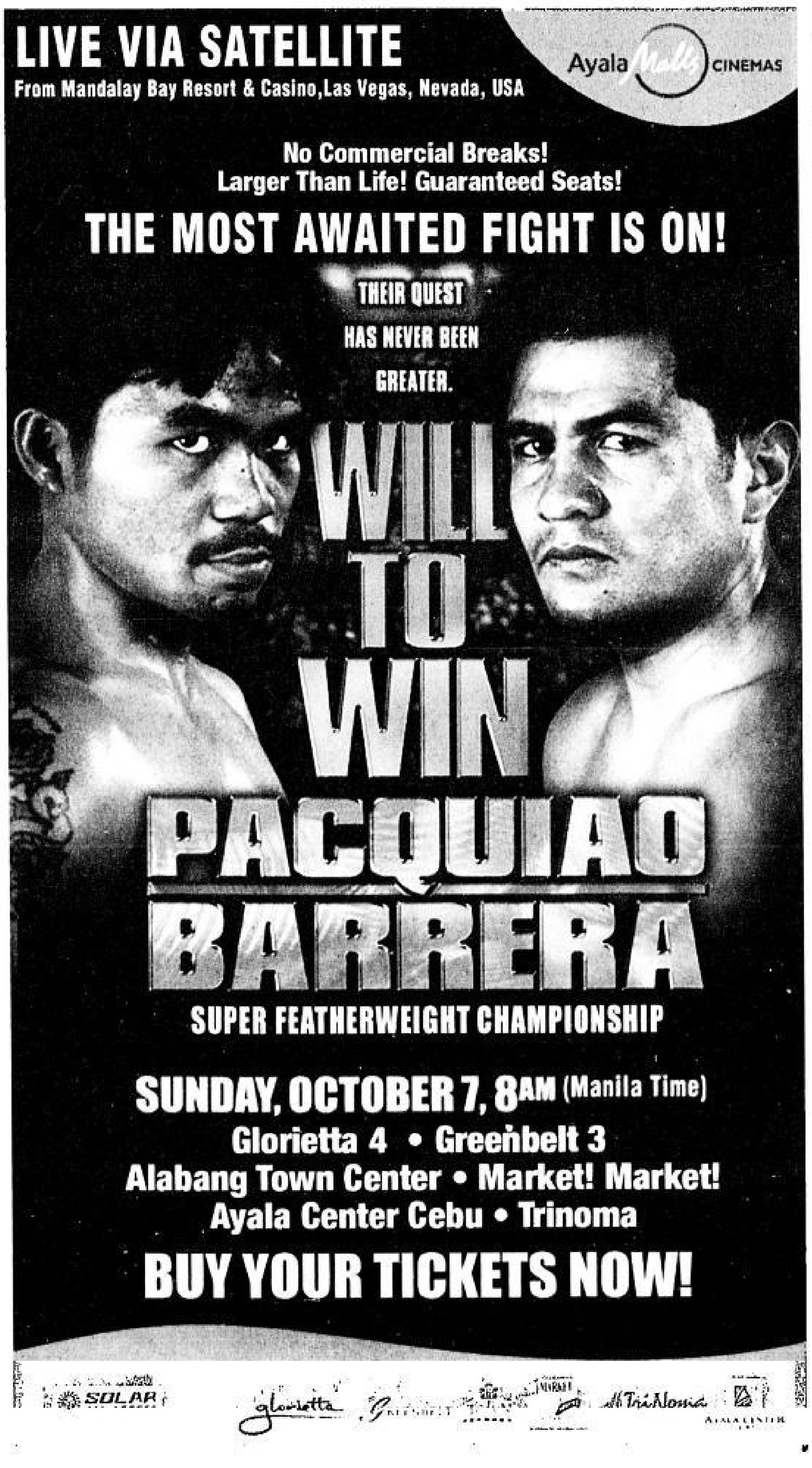

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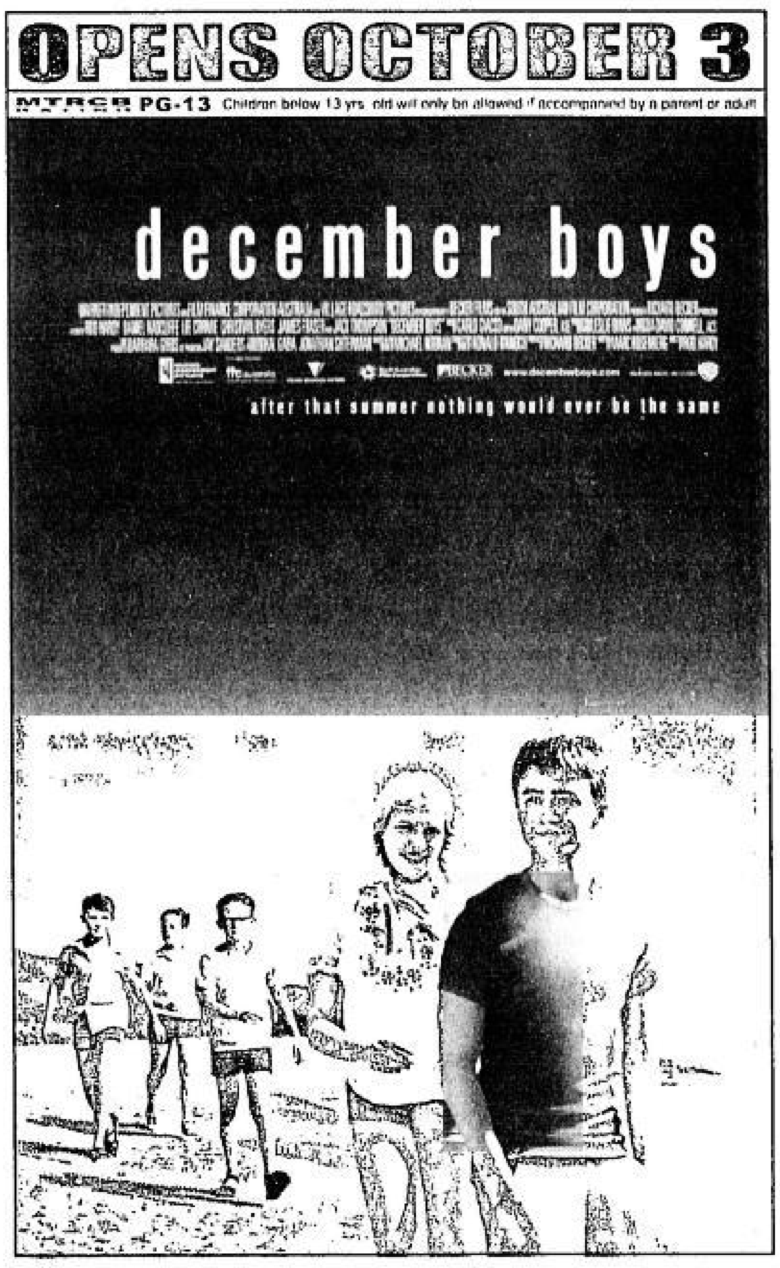

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Doris Day's legacy lives on

By Behn Cervantes

DAY. The box-office sweetheart of her time.

I GREW UP WATCHING blonde and vibrant Doris Day's films. The squeaky-clean, versatile performer starred in wholesome movies with the likes of Dennis Morgan and Gordon MacRae. She was also heard regularly on radio before the advent of television.

High school and colleague students danced even to her romantic ballads. It was the '40s song, "Day by Day," that made her America's singing sweetheart and Hollywood's favorite freckle-faced girl next door.

Hollywood first noticed Day when she replaced Betty Hutton in "Romance on the High Seas." Thereafter, she appeared in a number of light musicals like "By the Light of the Silvery Moon" and "April in Paris" that cast her in average blonde roles.

More substantial

With her box-office clout, however, she soon appeared in more substantial musicals like "Young at Heart," "Calamity Jane" and "Pajama Game" alongside Tinseltown's heavyweights like Frank Sinatra and Howard Keel.

Her films were box-office successes, and her records sold like pancakes. The whole world sang along with the lovable and wholesome actress—she was sitting on top of the world!

Little did the world know that Dodo, her nickname, was hospitalized when she was only 13 years old. At 16, she was already on the road singing in the different corners of the US continent. The young Doris von Kappelhoff went through experiences normally meant for people far older and wiser.

Ordinary musician

It was no wonder she married at 17—not to an ordinary musician, but to a "psychopath"—as she described her first husband in her autobiography, "Doris Day: Her Own Story."

At 22, she made another marital blunder. When she met Marty Melcher, her third husband, he seemed like her perfect match. However, upon his death, she realized that the seemingly ideal husband *cum* manager had "either mismanaged or embezzled" her life's savings worth $20 million! —That was big money in 1968!

By the early '50s, she had become one of Hollywood's most popular female stars —and also one of its highest paid! She appeared in highly successful, sexy romantic romps like "Pillow Talk," "Midnight Lace," and "That Touch of Mink" with debonair leading men like Rock Hudson, Rex Harrison and Cary Grant.

She also dabbled in a dramatic role in "Love Me or Leave Me," where she costarred with James Cagney. Alfred Hitchcock cast her in "The Man Who Knew Too Much," where she sang the Academy Award-winning song, "Que Sera Sera."

Smart celebrity

Day became a name to reckon with at the box office, so she soon started producing her own films. Who knew that Tinseltown's box-office queen was flat broke? It was hard to believe the financial fate that befell the very successful star. How could such a smart celebrity have married such a cad?

After suffering a nervous breakdown, the determined actress went to work on television. Unbeknownst to her, her late husband had committed her to a show via a contract. She honored it and soon, she became one of the medium's biggest stars. "The Doris Day Show" ran for several successful seasons. Soon, she was back on her financial feet, with fans rooting for her every challenging step of the way.

In 1974, she was awarded more than $22 million in damages from the lawyer suspected of having connived with her late husband. Doris Day has since retired, but her legacy remains etched in the hearts and minds of her appreciative admirers.

Jodie Foster avoids . . .

From page F3

line that your character quotes in the movie—"The essential American soul is hard, isolated, stoic and a killer"?

Isn't that a wonderful quote? Neil Jordan found that quote. I believe that's true. I think that in the fabric of our national DNA is a culture of pioneers who had to survive the most arduous of lands in order to become who they are.

There's a part of us that is childlike, but there's another part that's hard and another part that will do anything to protect ourselves. It's monstrous, but it's also beautiful!

Would you like a little girl in the future?

I don't think so. I don't think that's in the cards. I'm done. But, I'd like a granddaughter in the future!

E-mail rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com and read his blog, "The Nepales Report," on www.inquirerbloggers.net/nepalesreport.

Jovovich keeps action-horror franchise kicking

By Noelani Torre

JOVOVICH. Plays gun-toting, knife-wielding, bad-ass babe with gusto.

"RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION," the third installment of a movie franchise that's based on a video game that's based on another movie, references so many things, including itself in its own previous incarnations, that it's practically an exploration of postmodern interreferentiality. And that's the last time cultural theory will be mentioned here—because you simply can't take a movie like this seriously.

In any case, you wouldn't want to give credit where it isn't due. Perhaps Paul W.S. Anderson was doing some exploring when he wrote the script for this new sequel—or perhaps, he just couldn't be bothered to think of new ideas or a new plot. When you take into consideration the fact that he also wrote the scripts for the first two installments, the ruling doesn't exactly come down in his favor.

Despite Anderson's not so golden contribution to the filmmaking process, however, "Resident Evil: Extinction" is probably the most enjoyable in the series. That's not exactly saying much, since the first two films weren't what you'd call critical or box-office successes (both earned a not-too-impressive $91 million combined).

Elements

Helmed by Australian director Russell Mulcahy, the movie has several elements working for it, the most important of which is the commanding presence of Milla Jovovich. Reprising her role as super undead slayer, Alice—and sometimes appearing in the same red dress she wore at the start of the series—Jovovich plays her gun-toting, knife-wielding, bad-ass babe role with gusto. She's the main thing that keeps the movie going; without her, it would probably fall flat on its face.

Mulcahy, who got his start in the biz by directing music videos for artists like Duran Duran, Elton John and Queen, adds flash and style to the slicing and blasting of zombie flesh—obviously, he's not above resorting to cheap thrills. The scenes are lean, and everything's fast-paced enough to keep tension at a high level.

Survivors

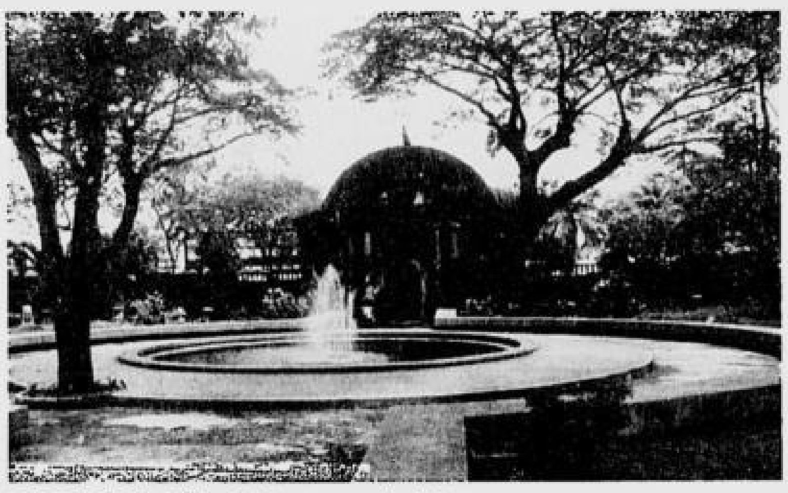
The plot involves Alice (Jovovich) protecting the lives of a band of survivors making their way through the Nevada desert. Among these survivors are characters from the previous films, Carlos Olivera (Oded Fehr) and L.J. (Mike Epps), as well as new ones like the group's leader, Claire (Ali Larter of "Heroes").

The Umbrella Corporation, meanwhile, is still looking for a cure for the zombie-making T-virus they created which, by this time, has wiped out most of the world. Dr. Isaacs (Iain Glen) is the unhinged scientist conducting the experiments, who's desperately seeking Alice. Her DNA may hold the key to the cure.

Referencing "Day of the Dead" and "Mad Max 2: The Road Warrior" with occasionally effective but never innovative results, "Resident Evil: Extinction" is best approached with no expectations whatsoever.

Parks offer free musical, theatrical treats

By Sharon Robas-Macawile



PACO PARK. Offers intimate musical shows.

HOW DO YOU UNWIND WHEN your stress level reaches its peak? With the escalating prices of almost everything, even a weekly trip to the movie house has become quite prohibitive—unless, of course, you're content with watching DVDs or listening to your fave CDs at home.

During these hard times, is there a way to still enjoy live musical and theatrical performances for free? Happily, the answer is yes. For many years now, "Paco Park Presents" and "Concert at the Park" have been giving music and theater buffs something to feed their artistic souls with.

The last time I watched a concert at Paco Park was in the '90s, and at Rizal Park in early 2000. At the time, performances in those parks were held every Friday and Sunday, respectively. To my pleasant surprise, I found out recently that those venues continue to observe the same schedule today.

Something new

Veering away from our usual weekend mall hideaway, my hubby and I decided to try something new for a change. I "googled" the two parks and found a link to the website of the National Parks Development Committee, where a schedule of free events held in parks are posted. So, on a Friday night, we headed to Paco Park for our first treat together.

The night's featured performer was a tenor who sang a repertoire of standards and show tunes. With only a pianist accompanying the singer, the performance was such a delight! The cool night breeze and intimate ambiance further added to the romantic setting.

Although the audience was composed mostly of senior citizens who no doubt just wanted to take advantage of the free musical show, there were also young viewers who either savored the musical treat, as well as student who chatted endlessly, despite the constant "shhhh!" from annoyed listeners.

Brief distraction

Despite the brief distraction (thank goodness the noisy teens left after a few minutes), the hour-long program ended with us feeling recharged and our weary souls refreshed.

That Sunday, we were at Rizal Park's open-air auditorium to watch a performance at "Concert at the Park." This time, it features a theatrical play, a first prize winner of the CCP's playwriting contest. Even before the show started, we already noticed an obvious contrast between the two parks: "Paco Park Presents" offered an intimate setting, but the Rizal Park show was a bit loud in comparison.

This was mainly because the "Concert at the Park" venue was bigger and teemed with a diverse mix of people of all ages. The open-air auditorium has been a favorite hangout of families on picnics, couples on dates, beggars taking naps and street kids loitering around the place. Of course, there were also some serious theater lovers who were quietly mingling with the people around, and they were just as excited as we were.

When the play finally started, the crowd alternately cheered and giggled at the play's funny and engaging scenes. Despite the threat of rain, the audience stayed on and left the auditorium satisfied.

Audience reaction

Audience reaction during outdoor performances can be encouraging and disappointing at the same time. There were those who truly knew how to appreciate a good show, but there were a few who brashly howled at the performers just for kicks. Another minus point: smokers were everywhere! A cigarette vendor (a kid) was even plying her trade along the aisles—while the play was going on.

In the end, however, these free performances are a welcome treat. We encourage those looking for alternative pastimes to take advantage of these shows.

On our way home, we realized how much we had saved from our cheap but exciting forays at the parks—so, they definitely won't be our last!

Toti Fuentes back for homecoming show

From page F6

Guests on "Oprah": Oct. 7 at 8 p.m., Magic Johnson. Oct. 14, Howie Mandel. Oct. 28, Chris Rock and Fantasia. For details, visit www.hallmarkchannel.tv.

'Taluktok'

Gantimpala Theater Foundation's Pearl Theater Festival ends with Leoncio Deriada's "Taluktok" at 7 p.m. tomorrow at the Rizal Park Auditorium. Tony Espejo directs.

'Parental Control'

At 6 p.m. M-F on the ETC. channel, "Parental Control" shows what happens when parents are allowed to pick their kids' dates, so that the boyfriends or girlfriends they hate can be replaced with "better" prospects.

Movies on TV

On HBO on Oct. 1 at 8:30 a.m., "Born on the Fourth of July." Oct. 2 at 1 p.m., "Gorillas in the Mist." Oct. 3 at 2 p.m., "Greystoke: The Legend of Tarzan, Lord of the Apes." Oct. 4 at 7 p.m., "American Dreamz." Oct. 5 at 3 p.m., "In Country."

On Cinemax, Oct. 1 at 9 p.m., "Casino." Oct. 2 at 7 a.m., "G. I. Blues." Oct. 3 at 5 p.m., "Trading Places." Oct. 4 at 7 a.m., "Bonnie and Clyde." Oct. 5 at 7 a.m., "East of Eden."

Grand Prize winner

Hana Richelle Tan, 11 years old, is the grand prize winner of Nickelodeon's "share-sational" Canister Design Contest. the tilt's theme of sharing is clearly depicted in Hana's design—a birds'-eye view of kids with hands interlocked, urging each other to perform acts of kindness.

Hana's winning design will be the cover of 10,000 canisters which will be distributed to raise funds to benefit KFC-Batang Bayani Village, a GK community in Pasig. Log on to www.nicksplat.com/bighelp.

'Art 2 Art'

Writer-director Floy Quintos recently guested on Lisa Macuja's radio program, "Art 2 Art," telecast 3 p.m. Sundays on dzRH. The show brings audience personalities in the realm of art and culture to a nationwide audience.

"HAUNTING SARAH." Thrilling treat on Hallmark.

'Apat Dapat'

Powerhouse comedy team, director Wenn Deramas and writer Mel del Rosario's latest fun flick is "Apat Dapat, Dapat Apat," starring four zany comediennes—Rufa Mae Quinto, Eugene Domingo, Pokwang and Candy Pangilinan—as four friends who try their luck as domestic helpers in Hong Kong.

Search for 'The Great Pretender'

Got the talent to impersonate your favorite singers, famous personalities or dance groups? Join Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall's "The Great Pretender" talent and impersonation contest, which boasts of P100,000 worth of cash prizes and gift certificates.

Weekly elimination rounds start on Nov. 7 and grand finals are on Dec. 19. Call 681-5401 loc. 109.

'Search for Warmth'

The Zelle band's debut album, "Search for Warmth," is a heartwarming collection of songs of love, passion and inspiration, with "Sabihin" as carrier single.

'Simply Irresistible'

Mark Bautista's second major concert, "Simply Irresistible," will be presented at Aliw Theater on Oct. 13. His guests include Sarah Geronimo, Rachelle Ann Go, Rufa Mae Quinto and Sitti, Call 687-6181 loc. 620.

'70s hits

Barry Manilow's new album, "The Greatest Songs of the '70s," celebrates the hit songs of the decade that launched his career. Manilow's tributes start with an homage to Barbra Streisand's "The Way We Were," Frankie Valli's "My Eyes Adore You," the Bee Gees' "How Can You Mend a Broken Heart?" and Christopher Cross' "Sailing." The 18-track CD also includes a section called Acoustic Manilow.

Cartoon Network

At recent auditions at SM Mall of Asia Cartoon Network judges selected three finalists per category for its Awards of Excellence 2007. They will be competing for the top spot at the awards ceremony on Nov. 29. Log on to www.cartoonnetwork.com.ph.

'Pelikula' at Greenbelt 3

From Oct. 1-14, Instituto Cervantes de Manila screens Pelikula, its festival of outstanding movies from Asian and Latin America at Greenbelt 3's Cinema 2. On Oct. 8, the film on view is "Los Ultimos de Filipinos, 1898," on the siege of Baler, Quezon. Other titles include "7 Virgines," "La Vida Secreta de las Palabras," "De Profundis," "Utopia," "El Proximo Oriente" and "Tu Vida en '65." Call 526-1482 to 85.

Shroud of Turin exhibit

Warren Hewellyn Ormsby-Green, specialized armorer for "The Lord of the Rings," has crafted Roman artifacts for the Philippine exhibition of The Mystery of the Shroud of Turin, a 45-minute lights and sound show that features a replica of the Shourd of Turin. The exhibit runs until Dec. 9 at SM Mall of Asia. Call 895-2966, log on to www.shroudexhibits.ph or email info@shroudexhibits.ph.

NOW SHOWING

Potent chemistry boosts uneven teenage romance

By Rito P. Asilo

"I've Fallen for You"
D: Lino S. Cayetano
S: Gerald Anderson, Kim Chiu

IN LINO CAYETANO'S FEATURE film debut as director, he puts Gerald Anderson and Kim Chiu's potent chemistry to good use: When Alex Gabriel Reyes (Chiu) crosses paths with Alex Tamano Reyes (Anderson), attraction turns to resentment when the pretty but poor teenage girl learns that it was her affluent namesake who passed the UPCAT.

In desperate need of money for her college tuition, she agrees to team up with the handsome stranger in a tandem cycling competition, with her eye on the P50,000 prize—and her heart on his!

But, things are never smooth sailing in fairytale land. The happy duo soon learns that her dad, Jonathan (Albert Martinez), and his mom, Tessa (Chin Chin Gutierrez), share a colorful but painful past—that soon threatens to break them apart! Is their love just as doomed as their parents'?

Cayetano's polished filmmaking debut shows the hard work he and his production team put into it—from the careful handling of shots and organically blocked sequences to crisply edited and well-lit scenes.

Moreover, Eli Balce's inspired photography and Malou Dugtong de Guzman's glossy production design further help set the mood for love and drama. The movie's well-chosen locations provide the appropriately dreamy backdrop it needs to sell its theme of first love.

The over-all product, however, is uneven: The movie's first 30 minutes grind slowly (and awkwardly) until the production finally finds its confident stride halfway through. Soon, the light romantic poor girl-meets-rich boy tale turns into an eventfully dramatic love story that dispenses lessons on taking risks and chasing after second chances.

There's no doubt Chiu and Anderson possess a potent chemistry that works well on the big screen. The pretty Chinese-Filipino teenager, however, has to find a proper placement for her consistently cracking speaking voice—which distracts when she's required to deliver emotionally-charged lines in sensitive scenes. In fact, she's at her best in silent moments.

Anderson, on the other hand, is a confident performer who cuts a dashing figure and possesses a disarming presence on the silver screen.

The young Fil-Am is a natural: He should be given challenging dramatic roles in more substantial projects that he can sink his thespic teeth into—and we're not talking about his future at noodle dancing!

CHIU AND ANDERSON. Their onscreen tandem is a winner.

'Let them view . . .

From page F6

"Lastikman" is prone to slow storytelling, so it has to pick up its pace if it intends to sustain its initial momentum.

Having said all that, we must further note that the current glut of fantasy productions on local TV, further abetted by these two new shows, isn't healthy viewing fare for TV fans.

It encourages them to remain passive, to escape into fantasy worlds, to refuse to confront real life and issues. Sure, many people watch TV to switch off rather than to turn on, but if this becomes a habit, it can't be good for the national life and psyche.

In the past, rulers bent on subduing the populace would opt for "bread and circuses," or would smugly intone, "Let them eat cake!"

Let's hope that their present-day equivalent isn't "Let them view TV fantasy series!"

Baptismal weddings . . .

From page F1

Guest: We, the people, I believe, should not go beyond being vigilant!

(*Baliktad yata...*)

* * *

Host: How long did it take you to build up your body?

Guest: About one year. It was very difficult!

Host: But, it was successful! *Ang dami mo nang laman sa loob ngayon!*

(*Ay, lamang loob!*)

* * *

Host: You know, I like talking to you.

Guest: Thank you.

Host: Your jokes are funny! You're so *magaan* and also so light!

(Is that the new double speak?)

***

Host: Why don't you plug your forthcoming shows in Europe?

Guest: Oh, yes, please watch out for us, we'll be there next month with (names of other stars).

Host: What about Ireland?

Guest: Yes, we'll also be performing there, in Dublin.

Host: Go ahead, talk to them, *pinapanood tayo ngayon ng lahat ng tao sa* Dublin, Ireland!

(Promise, *ha?*)

* * *

Host: How do you screen prospective employees from the many applications you get?

Guest: We look into not just the mental and physical—*pati yung kanyang* psychologically situation.

(Ah, so...)

* * *

Host: How old were you when your father died?

Guest: Oh, my father, *patay na*, 3-4 years old pa lang.

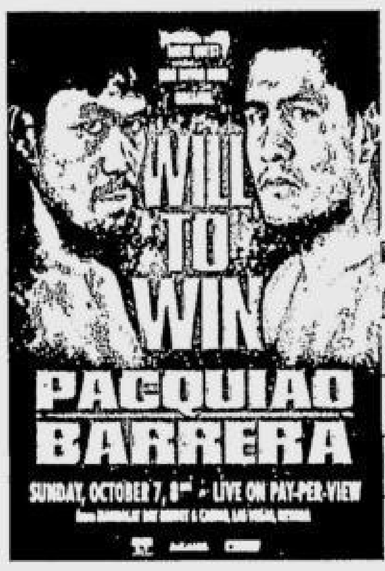
(No comment!)

* * *

Host: Are you proud of your victory?

Guest: Well, not proud—but, humbly speaking, I admit it's in a thing a really achievement!

(*Ano daw?*)



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MARKET! MARKET!	1 I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU	2 I NOW PONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY		
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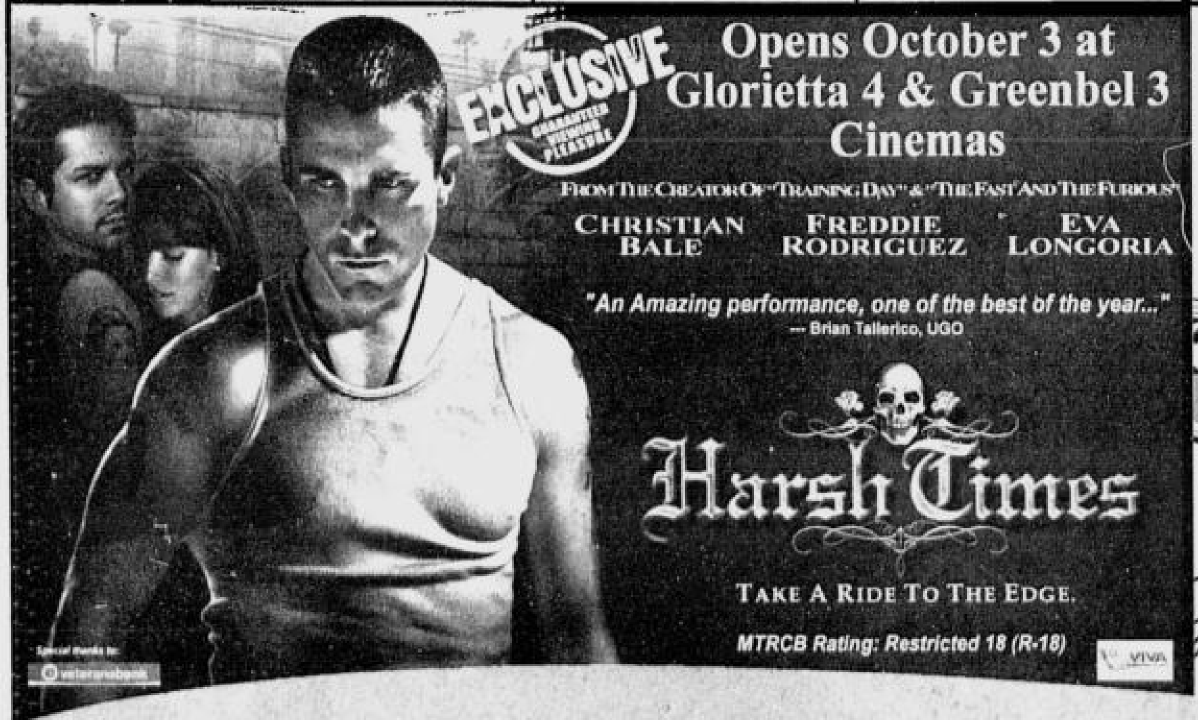
AYALA CENTER CEBU	Elliot Yamin of American Idol Live! September 26; 6 pm; OnStage (Cinema 1)
MARKET! MARKET!	Toyota Showcase September 28 to 30, 2007; at the Activity Center
Greenbelt 1 Onstage	Repertory Philippines presents LOVE'S LABOUR'S LOST September 15 - October 7, 2007 For inquiries, pls. call 887-0710 or visit www.repertory-philippines.com
Ayala MUSEUM	FORMS & SPACES: An Exhibition by MAIA & Aaron Bautista September 10 to 27, 2007; ArtistSpace For more info, pls. call 757-7117 to 21 loc. 14 or email museum_inquiry@ayalamuseum.org
TriNoma	Mother Care Exhibit September 16 to 30; 10 am to 9 pm; Restoration Area, Level 3



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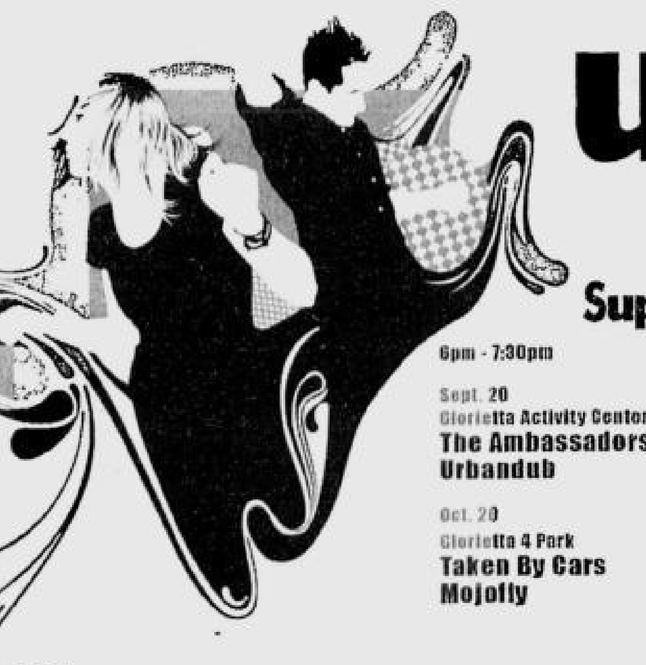


urban beats
Superbands at Glorietta
6pm - 7:30pm

Sept. 20
Glorietta Activity Center
The Ambassadors
Urbandub

Oct. 12
Glorietta 3 Park
Sinosikat
Hilera

Oct. 13
Glorietta 3 Park
Kastigo
Kjwan

Oct. 20
Glorietta 4 Park
Taken By Cars
Mojofly

Oct. 31
Glorietta Activity Center
Stonefree
Cambio

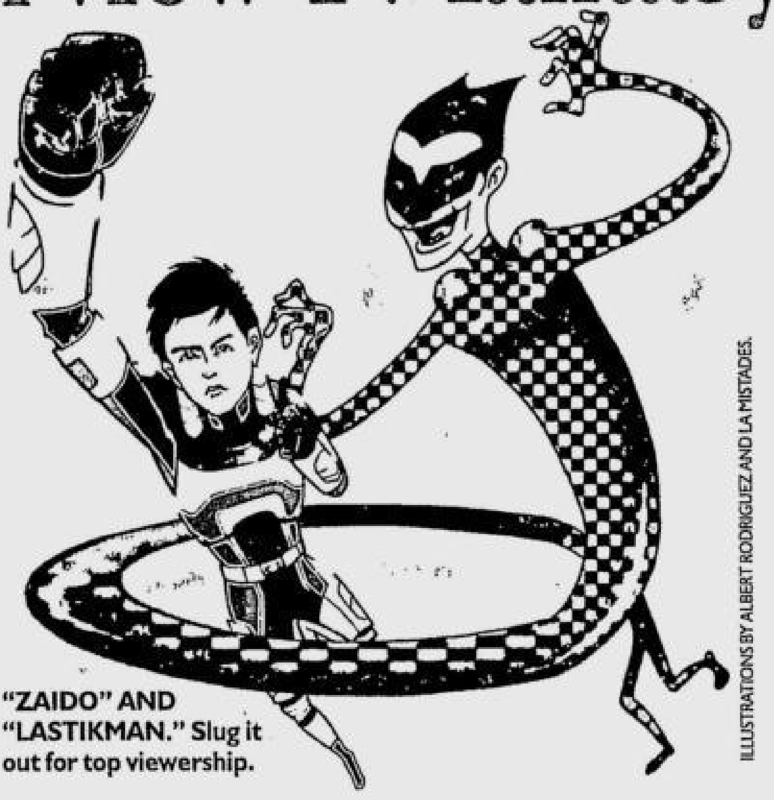
glorietta GREENBELT ALABANG TOWN AYALA CENTER CEBU MARKET! MARKET! TriNoma

'Let them view TV fantasy series'

By Nestor U. Torre

ON MONDAY, SEPT. 24, TWO fantasy series started telecasting on local TV screens: ABS-CBN 2 fielded "Lastikman," while GMA-7 launched "Zaido." Which new series made a better impression on its opening telecast? Let's see how some relevant factors play themselves out:

"Lastikman" has good star value in the person of title role player, Vhong Navarro. And its opening sequence last Sept. 24 was visually impressive, with a gigantic waterspout destroying everything in its path, and Lastikman vanquishing an all-powerful villain.



"ZAIDO" AND "LASTIKMAN." Slug it out for top viewership.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ AND LA MISTADES.

Leader

After that exciting start, however, the show slowed down when it recalled how Lastikman was born on another planet, of a human mother (Dawn Zulueta) and a leader (Tonton Gutierrez) of that other civilization in outer space.

The back story was told in too detailed a fashion, so this viewer's attention wandered. We noted, though, that the series' visual effects were otherwise quite on the up-and-up.

For its part, "Zaido" told the story of an otherworldly Galactic Force threatened by the onslaught of an evil planet bent on pillaging other worlds.

This prompted the Force to form a new corps of space police made up of stalwart, young fighters led by the character played by Dennis Trillo.

To start its storytelling on a high note, the new series made use of shots of planets in deep space, state-of-the-art spaceships, and futuristic sets.

The effect was fine, except it felt a little "borrowed" from such iconic reference points as "Star Wars." Still, it was good to see that our visual scenarists could rise up to that level, even if not mainly on their own creative steam.

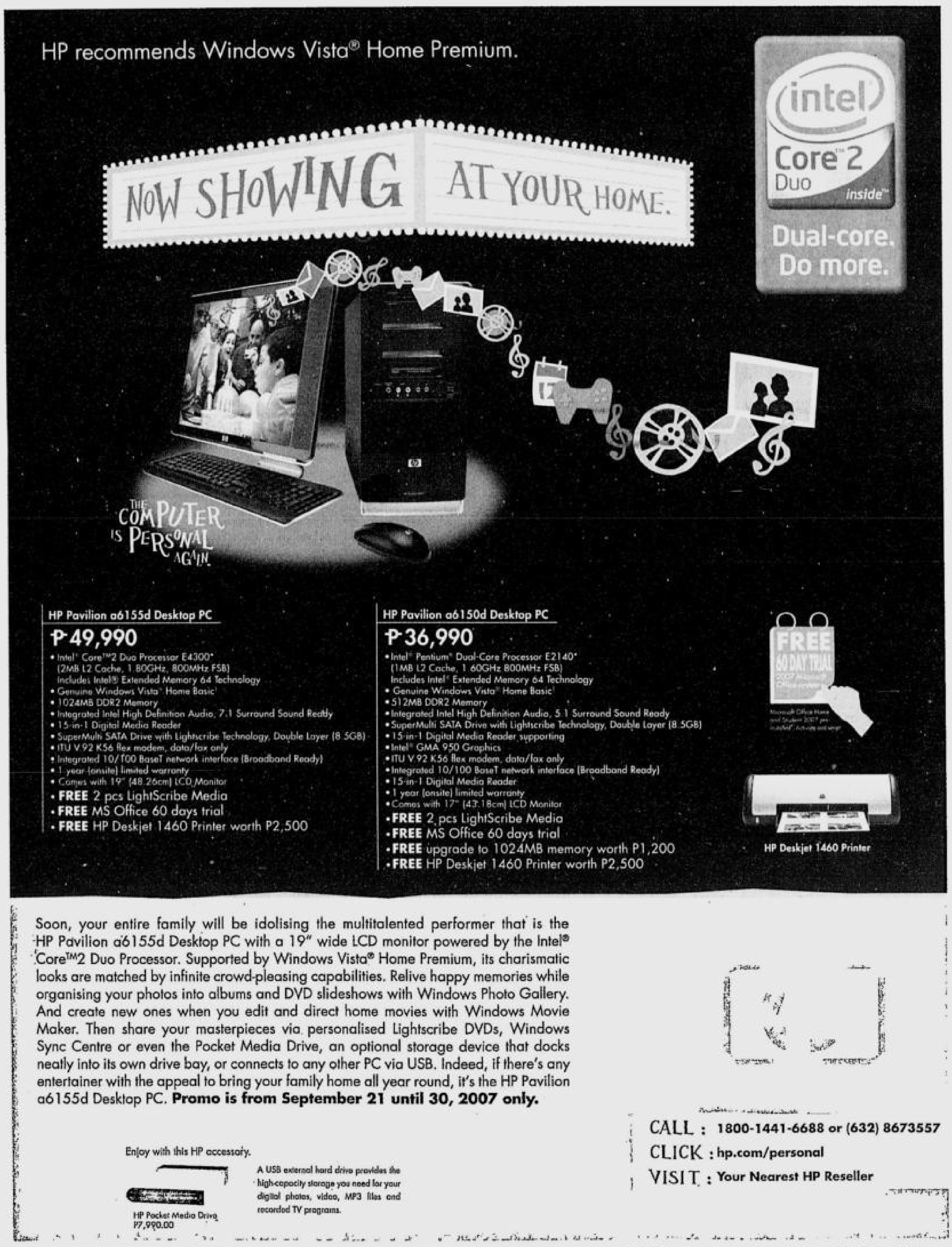
The turn-off here was the inconsistency between the production's glossy sci-fi effects and some warriors still resorting to dated martial arts stances and swordfights. You would think that advanced civilizations capable of teleportation would have developed the art of warfare to a similarly more high-tech level!

Decoration

Some aspects of the production design were also distracting, like Diana Zubiri's sporting a necklace-like decoration that was arranged like a sort of mask around her—face! The "facelace" looked exotic but ungainly, and detracted from the actress' appeal, instead of enhancing it. But, that's a mere detail.

The more important question is, which of the two new series made the better impression on its first telecast? We have to go with "Lastikman," since "Zaido" and its "space patrol" concept felt a bit dated and borrowed. On the other hand, we must again note that

LET/F5



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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4588 Series of 2007.

Sassy hybrid of jazz and blues in 'Ur Luv Thang'

By Rito P. Asilo

BITUIN ESCALANTE

ESCALANTE. In her full-voiced renditions, schmaltz takes on a different meaning.

WITH FINGER-SNAPPING beats and a sassy vocal arrangement, Bituin Escalante opens her latest CD, "Ur Luv Thang," with the groovesome track, "Let Go." The lush music reverberates with a sexy and unconventional tempo that reminds listeners that Bituin's latest album is not one of your run-of-the-mill, commercial releases. Ironically, this OPM compilation doesn't sound *Pinoy* at all!

In a season of slim pickings from the local music industry, Bituin's independently-produced album, "Ur Luv Thang," is nothing short of a treat: The 12-song compilation is coated with a musically succulent hybrid of blues and jazzy tunes, all written by Dan Gil—it's no wonder why some cuts follow through with similar groove patterns and vocal requirements. Even more pleasantly surprising, there are no revivals here, as is customary with most local releases.

Musical ennui

In her previous offering, the singer-stage actress dished out a memorably frolicsome song, "The Only Two People in the World." Her independently-produced collection boasts of even more lusciously delivered numbers—an aural respite from the local recording industry's current musical ennui.

In "Each Time We Say Goodbye," for instance, Bituin delivers a lovely R&B duet with Artstrong. In the lone Tagalog track, "Kung Wala Ka," about a troubled relationship, she dispenses an earnest interpretation full of soul and pathos.

Yes, the somber tune's lyrics border on "jukebox" sentimentality (*"Kung wala ka, buhay ko'y walang saysay. 'Di ako masasanay. Mabuti pang mamatay."*), but with Bituin's full-voiced rendition (and Alvin Cornista's moody sax), schmaltz takes on a different meaning.

An upbeat rhythm boosts "What You Do," a cut reminiscent of the tunes popularized by Swing Out Sisters in the '80s. Our top pick, "Last Tango in Manila," fuses Latin sound with LL-J's foot-stomping rap. When Bituin launches into her infectiously playful taunt ("I know you're just putting on a show. You got something up you're sleeve…"), you know she's having fun—and so will you!

Feisty

Take the vocally and melodically fascinating "There's No Single Thing." The feisty number has a funny albeit simplistic narrative: "I was 8 and you were 9. We'd run around till dinnertime. Then, my dad would drag me back home—kickin' and screamin'!"

A number of tracks, however, vacillate with indistinct melodic patterns ("Hurts So Bad," "Inconsiderate") that don't take flight. Bituin would have been served well by a variety of musical styles (and songwriters) that could have showcased her range and versatility.

If a singer's vocal instrument has the ability to pack as much wallop as Bituin's, it's only appropriate to expect more.

Toti Fuentes back for homecoming show

FUENTES. Perfroms in a concert series at Merk's.

MONTAGE

AFTER MORE THAN A YEAR away fighting his recurring cancer, international musician Toti Fuentes is back in town, raring to perform once again.

Together with another comebacking artist, Anna Fegi, Toti will perform in "Perfect Pair," a show presented by Merk's Bar Bistro on Oct. 27, Nov. 8, 10 and 15, with Doc's Candles as sponsor. Call 757-4741 or 531-5707.

Pomeranz on SuperStar Virgo

On Oct. 28, Star Cruises features acclaimed singer-songwriter David Pomeranz onboard its SuperStar Virgo's The Lido. The performance is a first for Pomeranz, whose hits include "Got to Believe in Magic," "King and Queen of Hearts" and "Born for You."

Take your pick between a three-night cruise (Oct. 28-31—Singapore, Penang, Phuket, Singapore) or five-night cruise (Oct. 31-Nov.2—Singapore, Penang, Phuket, Singapore, Portklang, Singapore)—Call 521-5660, fax 521-5637, email asmanzano@starcruises.com or visit Star Cruises' website www.starcruises.com.

Aside from Pomeranz's stellar performance, enjoy gastronomic delights, exotic sights, shopping and sports activities while onboard SuperStar Virgo.

POMERANZ. Performs for Star Cruises.

Pacquiao-Barrera fight

Solar Sports, Starmall Edsa and Metropolis Star Alabang bring boxing fans the live coverage *via* satellite at 8 a.m. on Oct. 7. Call 718-1886, 872-5249 or 842-2513.

Thrillers on Hallmark

Thursday Thriller Nights on the Hallmark Channel fields these terrifying tales. Oct. 4 at 10 p.m., "Deadly Web," about a stalker on the Internet. Oct. 11, "Haunting Sarah," on a woman's fear that her dead son is being reborn when her twin discovers that she's pregnant.

Oct. 18, "A Nightmare Comes True," about how a young woman's dreams help her unveil the possible murder of her mother. Oct. 25, "Murder Without Conviction," on a former nun's exoneration of twin brothers who, 30 years ago, were accused of the brutal murder of their mother.

Also on Hallmark: Oct. 1 and 2 at 11 p.m., "Trudeau," which tells the turbulent story of Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Elliot Trudeau.

TOTI/F4

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Republic of the Philippines
SOCIAL SECURITY COMMISSION
Makati City

JOSEFINA T. JARDIN,
Petitioner,
SSC CASE NO. 4-17792-07
versus –
PERLA R. SAN LORENZO,
Respondent,
SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM,
Intervenor.
x - x

SUMMONS

TO : PERLA R. SAN LORENZO

GREETINGS.

You are hereby required to file within fifteen (15) days from the date of publication of this Summons with the Office of the Clerk of the Commission, 12th Floor, SSS Makati Building, 6782 Ayala Avenue corner Rufino Street, Makati City, your Answer to the Petition filed by JOSEFINA T. JARDIN on her claim for benefit accruing from the death of RENATO E. JARDIN.

You are further required to serve a copy of your answer to the petition at petitioner's address at 2 Martinez Bukid, Brgy. Martinez del '96 Pateros, Metro Manila and upon the SSS thru Atty. NEIL F. HERNAEZ of Makati City Branch Office, # 355 ECC Bldg., Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City.

If you fail to answer within the time prescribed above, the Hearing Commissioner may upon motion of the petitioner or **motu-proprio**, declare you in default and shall forthwith proceed to receive the petitioner's evidence ex-parte and thereafter recommend to the Commission either the granting or denial of the petition as the evidence may warrant.

SO ORDERED

Makati City, Philippines, August 30, 2007.

SOCIAL SECURITY COMMISSION

(PDI – September 29, 2007)

Boy Scouts of the Philippines and Sime Darby Pilipinas, Inc. are looking for a local and/or international property consultant/ broker who can assist them in marketing its property located at Ayala Avenue extension corner Malugay St., Makati City.

Interested group may submit their proposal not later than October 12, 2007 to the Secretary General of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines with office at:

Boy Scouts of the Philippines
181 Natividad Almeda-Lopez St.,
Ermita 1000, Manila

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Southern Leyte
CITY OF MAASIN
Bids and Awards Committee

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1. The City Government of Maasin through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites all interested suppliers, dealers, distributors and contractors to apply for eligibility and to submit bids for the supply, delivery and installation of licensed system application software and hardware, database construction and training and technical support with an Approved Budget of the Contract of six million two hundred fifty thousand pesos, Philippine currency (PhP6,250,000.00).
2. The Bids and Awards Committee will hold a Pre-bid Conference on Thursday, October 4, 2007 at ten o'clock in the morning at the City Conference Room, City Hall, Maasin City.
3. Interested bidders may obtain a complete set of bidding documents from October 4 to 15, 2007 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of 0.1% of the Approved Budget of the Contract to the City Treasury Services, Maasin City.
4. Deadline for the submission of applications for eligibility to bid and bid proposals shall be on Tuesday, October 16, 2007 at ten o'clock in the morning at the City Conference Room, City Hall, Maasin City. Immediately after the deadline, applications for eligibility and bid proposals will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives.
5. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use the non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted. All particulars relative to the Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of RA No. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.
6. The City Government of Maasin assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate and indemnify bidders for any expense incurred in the preparation of application for eligibility and to bid. The Bids and Awards Committee of the City of Maasin reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defects or formality therein and to accept bids considered complying and most advantageous to the government.
7. For more information, please contact the BAC Secretariat at telephone numbers 570-8608 or 570-8824.

(Sgd.) CRISPIN M. ARONG, JR.
Chairman

(PDI – September 29, 2007)

KAMAYAN REALTY CORPORATION

INVITATION TO BID

The Kamayan Realty Corporation (KRC), a subsidiary of the National Development Company (NDC), offers for sale the following parcels of land in CASH and on an "AS-IS-WHERE-IS" basis

LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	MINIMUM BID
METRO MANILA		
1 Jose Abad Santos Ave., Tondo, Manila	551.2 sq. meters (TCT No. 118795) former gasoline station	P 15,433,600
BICOL		
2. Lakandula Drive, Gogon, Legazpi City	11,996 sq. meters (TCT Nos. 15337, 15338 & 15339) former gasoline station and depot	P 53,742,080
CEBU		
3 M J Cuenco Ave , Brgy Mabolo Cebu City	9,767 sq. meters (TCT No. 63347) former warehouse	P 44,908,640
CAGAYAN DE ORO		
4. Corrales St Extension, Macabalan District, Cagayan de Oro City	2,778 sq. meters (TCT No. 19348) former office and depot	P 31,113,600

Interested parties may register and secure Bidding Guidelines upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P500.00 from October 1-5, 2007 at:

The Secretariat
Bids, Auction and Awards Committee
Kamayan Realty Corporation
c/o National Development Company
6th Floor NDC Building, 116 Tordesillas St.,
Salcedo Village, Makati City
Tel. Nos. (632) 840-1336; 840-4838 loc. 213 & 265

A pre-bid conference shall be held on October 23, 2007 at 9:30 AM at the Audio Visual Room Alberto B. Barretto Hall, NDC Building.

Bids shall be accompanied by 10% bid bond and submitted between 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM of October 26, 2007 labeled and addressed as follows:

The Chairman
Bids, Auction and Awards Committee
Kamayan Realty Corporation
c/o National Development Company
6th Floor, NDC Bldg , 116 Tordesillas St.,
Salcedo Village, Makati City
CODE: *Location of Property*

The opening of bids is scheduled on October 26, 2007 at 2:01 PM at the Audio Visual Room, Alberto B Barretto Hall, NDC Building, in the presence of all bidder(s) and/or their authorized representative(s).

KRC reserves the right to reject any and all bids or to waive any of the formalities required, or accept only such bids which are deemed advantageous to KRC.

(Sgd.) SATURNINO H. MEJIA
Chairman BAAC

(PDI-Sept. 28, 29 & 30, 2007)

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMPANY

The **NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMPANY (NDC)** invites interested bidders for the sale of its property with a total area of 1,155 square meters located along Mc Arthur Highway, Brgy. San Sebastian, Tarlac City in cash and on an **"as-is, where is"** basis. The minimum bid is set at P7.957 Million

Interested parties may register and secure Bidding Guidelines upon payment of P500.00 which is non-refundable beginning October 1, 2007 at:

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMPANY
c/o The Secretariat
Disposal Committee
6th Floor, National Development Company
116 Tordesillas St., Salcedo Village, Makati City
Direct Line: (02) 840-13-36; (02) 840-11-47;
Trunk Line: (02) 840-48-38 Locals 212 and 289

A pre-bid conference shall be held on 12 October 2007 at 9:30 AM at the Alberto Barretto Hall, National Development Company Bldg., 116 Tordesillas St., Salcedo Village, Makati City.

Bids must be sealed and submitted between 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM of 17 October 2007 labeled and addressed as follows:

THE CHAIRMAN
Disposal Committee
National Development Company
6th Floor, NDC Building
116 Tordesillas St., Salcedo Village
Makati City

CODE: TARLAC CITY PROPERTY

The opening of sealed bids, prepared in the prescribed forms and accompanied by a 10% bid bond, is scheduled on 17 October 2007 at 2.30 PM at the NDC Alberto Barretto Hall, NDC Building in the presence of all bidder(s) and/or their authorized representative(s). Bids submitted after 2:00 PM shall no longer be accepted.

The NDC Disposal Committee reserves the right to reject any and all bids or to waive any of the formalities required, or accept only such bids, which are deemed advantageous to NDC.

Disposal Committee Chairman

(PDI–September 28, 29 & 30, 2007)

1936
National Power Corporation

September 24, 2007

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

SUPPLY, DELIVERY, INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF THE FOLLOWING:

a. **SCHEDULE 1 – 3 x 650 kW DIESEL GENSETS FOR TABLAS Diesel Power Plant; and**
b. **SCHEDULE 2 – 2 x 650 kW DIESEL GENSETS FOR ROMBLON Diesel Power Plant**

The National Power Corporation (NPC) invites all interested Bidders to apply for Eligibility and to Bid for the **Supply, Delivery, Installation and Commissioning of (a) Schedule 1 – 3 x 650 kW Diesel Generating Sets for Tablas DPP; and (b.) Schedule 2 – 2 x 650 kW Diesel Generating Sets for Romblon DPP.** The source of funds for the Lease Contract to be Bid shall come from the Corporate Budget of NPC.

The works to be completed by the successful bidder shall consist of, but not limited to the design, manufacture, furnishing/supply including its delivery, installation and commissioning of 3 x 650 kW gensets for Tablas DPP and 2x 650 kW gensets for Romblon DPP. NPC is responsible in the supply and installation of generator's respective power cables, control cables, main control panels, generator protection equipment, meters and synchronization equipment both at Tablas DPP and Romblon DPP. The Supplier shall supervise the testing and commissioning of the diesel engine-generator sets and its auxiliaries. Included in the supply for the total of 5 x 650 kW gensets are 2 sets of processor/portable personal computer for gensets control setting and 2 sets of standard special mechanical tools as provided by the manufacturer.

Bidding will be conducted thru open competitive bidding procedure as specified in the IRR of RA 9184. Bidders must have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC within the last fifteen (15) years, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the Eligibility/Bidding Documents. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at the Bid Opening. Foreign bidder shall submit a certification from the foreign bidder's country of origin that its laws or regulations grant similar rights or privileges to citizens of the Philippines. The complete set of tender documents are available for issuance at the Bids and Contracts Services Department (BCSD), Ground Floor, NPC Building, Agham Road corner Quezon Avenue Diliman, Quezon City 1104 with telefax no. (632) 922-1622 upon presentation of Letter of Intent.

The bidding requirements and schedule of activities are as follows:

Contract Number – Luz P07Z123Seu	
APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT	Schedule 1 = P22,075,000.00 Schedule 2 = P14,725,000.00
Issuance of Bidding Docs	October 1, 2007 at the BCSD Office, NPC Head Office
Pre-Bid Conference	October 15, 2007, 10:30 A.M. at Moriones Room, NPC Building, Diliman, Quezon City
Submission/Opening of Bids	October 29, 2007, 10:30 A.M. at Moriones Room, NPC Building, Diliman, Quezon City
Contract Duration	One Hundred Eighty (180) calendar days
Cost of Eligibility/ Bidding Documents	P 10,000.00/schedule (Non-refundable)

Evaluation of eligibility, technical and price proposals will be based on non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria prescribed in the bidding documents. **Pursuant to GPPB Resolution No. 22-2006, prospective bidders should register with PhilGEPS and secure the corresponding Certificate of Registration.**

NPC reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to nullify the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders

(Sgd.) JUAN CARLOS J. GUADARRAMA
Vice President and Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – September 29, 2007)

UCPB SAVINGS ACQUIRED ASSET FOR SALE

Location : Lot 17 Blk 3 # 36 Molave Avenue, Park Subd., Merville, Parañaque
Description : Res. Lot with improvement
Lot Area : 346 sqm.

Indicative Price: **P4,165,200.00**

For inquiries: Pls. call Ms. Lulu or Ms. Star at telephone no. 811-9000 local 7243/7251

UCPB

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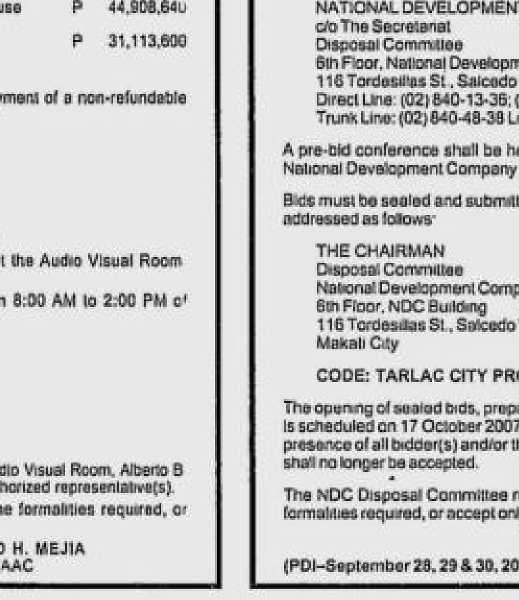

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- Good communication skills
- Aggressive, dynamic and presentable
- Can deal w/ top prof. people

Basic 10K plus commission/ incentives and travel abroad...
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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
COMMISSION ON AUDIT
Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City

FINANCIAL REPORTS OF MUNICIPALITIES
REGION 3 AND REGION 4
Fiscal Year 2006
(in thousand pesos)

Local Government Units	Class	Balance Sheet			Statement of Income and Expenses									
		Total Assets	Total Liabilities	Total Equity	Total Income	Rank 1	Rank 2	Total Expenses	Rank 1	Rank 2	Net Income (Net Loss)	Rank 1	Rank 2	% of Net Income (Net Loss) to Total Income
REGION 3		12,563,287	4,882,624	7,680,663	8,837,937			7,569,876			1,268,060			14
Aurora		572,467	136,195	436,273	374,048			319,723			54,325			15
Baler	4	56,502	22,636	33,866	44,352	88	5	39,666	87	4	4,686	72	6	11
Casiguran	3	102,969	7,654	95,315	56,218	69	2	44,933	77	3	11,285	33	1	20
Dilasag	4	31,005	3,270	27,735	38,602	101	7	34,684	97	6	3,908	79	7	10
Dinalungan	4	47,177	10,236	36,941	31,706	110	8	28,423	111	8	3,283	84	8	10
Dingalan	4	65,749	13,855	51,894	40,400	98	6	32,789	100	7	7,611	48	4	19
Dipaculao	3	78,422	16,922	61,499	47,131	82	4	37,248	94	5	9,884	38	2	21
Maria Aurora	3	85,882	15,561	70,321	59,572	63	1	54,855	58	1	4,717	71	5	8
San Luis	3	104,761	46,059	58,701	56,077	70	3	47,126	73	2	8,952	42	3	16
Bataan		2,208,630	1,173,837	1,034,793	1,100,685			830,883			269,802			25
Abucay	3	96,967	35,436	61,531	56,453	68	8	40,375	86	11	16,079	21	3	28
Bagac	4	65,153	46,618	18,535	43,217	94	11	41,132	85	10	2,086	95	10	5
Dinalupihan	1	110,091	74,627	35,464	95,775	25	3	101,238	15	3	(5,463)	117	11	(6)
Hermosa	2	118,216	57,845	60,371	65,708	51	6	62,675	39	5	3,033	87	9	5
Limay	1	475,537	82,228	393,309	201,357	6	2	139,690	8	2	61,667	2	2	31
Mariveles	1	967,774	700,166	267,608	324,351	1	1	179,229	3	1	145,122	1	1	45
Morong	4	82,684	56,239	26,445	51,309	76	9	45,524	76	8	5,785	64	8	11
Orani	1	124,723	65,297	59,426	82,209	34	4	72,507	36	4	9,702	39	6	12
Orion	3	27,204	5,116	22,088	63,708	56	7	50,496	63	7	13,212	28	4	21
Pilar	4	79,379	22,081	57,298	49,064	81	10	42,078	84	9	6,986	53	7	14
Samal	4	60,903	28,184	32,719	67,634	46	5	55,940	60	6	11,694	32	5	17
Bulacan		3,815,441	1,488,307	2,327,134	2,575,326			2,173,174			402,153			16
Angat	2	61,604	21,922	39,682	64,375	53	18	57,746	48	10	6,630	56	16	10
Balagtas	1	141,866	22,977	118,889	94,867	26	13	75,658	33	14	19,210	16	8	20
Baliuag	1	167,652	42,711	114,941	147,426	8	5	146,061	6	4	1,365	97	21	1
Bocaue	2	139,167	46,546	92,621	115,967	14	9	91,046	24	12	24,911	10	5	21
Bulakan	1	231,927	193,266	38,661	81,260	36	14	60,084	44	15	21,175	14	6	26
Bustos	3	77,923	41,681	36,241	54,313	72	21	49,211	67	22	5,102	68	17	9
Calumpit	1	152,680	72,165	80,516	117,471	12	8	113,704	10	6	3,766	80	19	3
D. R. Trinidad	2	87,723	18,734	68,990	69,842	45	17	56,007	56	19	14,836	23	10	21
Guiguinto	1	154,216	91,160	63,056	107,304	21	11	99,838	16	9	7,566	49	15	7
Hagonoy	1	465,577	92,806	372,781	106,116	22	12	94,019	22	11	12,097	31	13	11
Marilao	1	227,320	35,930	191,390	196,560	7	4	142,485	7	5	54,075	4	2	28
Meycauayan	1	474,618	308,164	166,455	300,644	2	1	260,110	1	1	40,534	7	4	13
Norzagaray	1	335,003	76,202	258,801	217,130	3	2	157,136	5	3	59,994	3	1	28
Obando	2	37,887	16,906	21,080	58,947	66	20	55,432	51	18	3,515	82	20	6
Pandi	3	121,895	46,166	75,729	64,020	54	19	50,336	64	21	13,684	26	12	21
Paombong	3	48,372	36,958	11,414	49,960	79	22	51,242	61	20	(1,282)	113	22	(3)
Plaridel	1	112,303	31,059	81,244	111,107	15	10	96,673	20	10	14,434	24	11	13
Pulilan	1	216,323	114,715	101,608	121,517	11	7	111,682	11	7	9,835	37	14	8
San Ildefonso	1	52,347	38,667	13,680	81,067	36	15	76,463	32	13	4,604	74	18	6
San Miguel	1	111,987	60,985	51,002	126,937	10	6	110,717	12	8	16,220	20	9	13
San Rafael	2	93,287	20,304	72,983	77,273	40	16	57,735	49	17	19,538	15	7	25
Sta. Maria	1	313,656	59,193	254,463	211,143	4	3	160,790	4	2	50,354	5	3	24
Nueva Ecija		2,192,820	824,386	1,368,433	1,473,668			1,329,880			143,788			10
Aliaga	3	35,599	10,347	25,253	51,685	75	15	32,929	98	20	18,756	17	1	36
Bongabon	3	113,425	51,250	62,175	60,407	60	10	47,769	71	15	12,638	20	4	21
Cabiao	2	85,949	30,873	55,076	60,688	58	9	58,376	46	7	2,311	93	21	4
Carranglan	2	60,540	6,080	54,460	67,317	49	6	58,186	47	8	9,131	41	5	14
Cuyapo	2	93,905	29,649	64,256	61,963	57	8	55,221	54	10	6,742	55	9	11
G. M. Natividad	4	121,113	42,493	78,620	39,626	100	23	32,921	99	21	6,604	57	10	17
Gabaldon	4	47,736	31,964	15,772	41,181	97	21	39,054	90	18	2,127	94	22	5
General Tinio	2	88,205	29,176	59,029	59,559	64	11	51,637	60	11	7,922	46	7	13
Guimba	1	120,961	39,371	81,590	92,740	27	2	84,847	26	3	7,893	47	8	9
Jaen	3	81,271	41,503	39,767	57,995	66	12	55,315	52	9	2,680	89	20	5
Laur	3	86,077	36,002	50,076	44,119	89	18	30,643	106	24	13,476	27	3	31
Licab	5	29,738	24,347	5,392	30,814	111	25	30,598	107	25	216	107	24	1
Llanera	4	59,682	49,427	10,255	39,653	99	22	31,360	104	23	8,293	44	6	21
Lupao	4	47,489	14,089	33,400	42,104	95	20	38,675	91	19	3,429	83	18	8
Nampicuan	5	58,298	27,924	30,374	19,432	118	27	18,182	118	27	1,250	98	23	6
Pantabangan	4	142,507	32,884	109,623	85,606	33	3	97,484	18	1	(11,878)	118	27	(14)
Peñaranda	4	28,008	11,286	16,722	31,898	109	24	31,881	102	22	18	109	25	0
Quezon	4	26,790	15,542	11,248	45,854	86	17	48,015	70	14	(2,161)	116	26	(5)
Rizal	3	48,162	31,936	16,226	56,016	71	13	49,838	65	12	6,178	60	11	11
San Antonio	2	117,598	74,163	43,435	78,345	38	4	63,233	38	4	15,112	22	2	19
San Isidro	4	308,520	48,542	259,978	52,891	74	14	49,680	66	13	3,211	85	19	6
San Leonardo	2	77,469	58,906	18,563	67,320	48	5	61,840	41	5	5,481	65	13	8
Sta. Rosa	2	62,855	25,415	37,440	63,932	55	7	58,903	45	6	5,030	69	15	8
Sto. Domingo	3	47,158	9,130	38,029	49,229	80	16	43,371	81	16	5,858	63	12	12
Talavera	1	115,489	23,257	92,231	100,087	23	1	94,903	21	2	5,184	66	14	5
Talugtug	4	49,571	13,915	35,656	29,513	112	26	25,873	113	26	3,640	81	17	12
Zaragosa	4	38,703	14,914	23,789	43,793	91	19	39,145	89	17	4,648	73	16	11
Pampanga		1,042,922	493,170	549,752	1,529,709			1,440,820			88,949			6
Apalit	1	54,364	18,249	36,115	89,859	28	6	83,609	27	6	6,250	59	6	7
Arayat	1	20,782	11,276	9,505	85,873	31	8	79,723	28	7	6,150	61	7	7
Bacolor	4	17,377	15,147	2,230	44,873	87	14	45,923	75	14	(1,050)	112	18	(2)
Candaba	1	79,488	57,962	21,526	77,656	39	10	77,519	31	10	136	108	16	0
Floridablanca	1	32,060	17,106	14,954	86,059	30	7	78,658	29	8	7,401	51	5	9
Guagua	1	35,643	16,883	18,760	99,556	24	5	96,990	19	4	2,566	92	10	3
Lubao	1	111,484	55,407	56,076	109,448	17	4	108,472	13	3	976	100	12	1
Mabalacat	1	169,293	145,375	23,918	207,180	5	1	204,551	2	1	2,629	90	9	1
Macabebe	2	59,134	4,772	54,362	74,042	42	11	73,319	34	11	723	103	13	1
Magalang	2	106,832	13,254	93,578	78,927	37	9	78,314	30	9	613	105	15	1
Masantol	3	19,936	6,391	13,546	50,763	77	12	46,406	74	13	4,357	77	8	9
Mexico	1	73,295	28,572	44,722	132,759	9	2	124,174	9	2	8,585	43	3	6
Minalin	4	9,409	4,243	5,166	38,329	102	17	37,693	92	16	636	104	14	2
Porac	1	54,115	7,954	46,160	116,942	13	3	86,456	25	5	30,486	9	1	26
San Luis	4	85,422	28,477	56,945	43,529	93	15	29,834	109	19	13,695	25	2	31
San Simon	3	44,924	41,045	3,879	46,273	84	13	47,748	72	12	(1,475)	114	19	(3)
Sasmuan	4	10,198	7,306	2,892	33,291	107	20	32,204	101	18	1,086	99	11	3
Sta. Ana	4	20,665	3,289	17,376	41,842	96	16	43,703	80	15	(1,861)	115	20	(4)
Sta. Rita	4	22,005	2,915	19,090	35,679	106	19	28,168	112	20	7,511	50	4	21
Sto. Tomas	4	16,496	7,546	8,950	36,891	103	18	37,358	93	17	(467)	111	17	(1)
Tarlac		1,430,157	362,708	1,067,449	1,001,645			806,564			195,081			19
Anao	5	32,135	16,682	15,453	23,084	116	16	20,508	115	15	2,576	91	15	11
Bamban	3	89,319	22,736	66,583	60,144	61	9	53,050	59	6	7,094	52	10	12
Camiling	1	155,624	43,323	112,301	85,759	32	4	61,678	42	4	24,081	12	3	28
Capas	1	142,874	31,059	111,815	108,940	18	1	107,967	14	1	974	101	16	1
Concepcion	1	146,827	45,228	101,599	108,842	19	2	92,045	23	2	16,797	18	5	15
Gerona	2	87,995	16,529	71,466	74,525	41	5	64,742	37	3	9,783	38	8	13
La Paz	3	78,604	33,713	44,891	56,675	67	10	50,577	62	7	6,098	62	11	11
Mayantoc	3	65,371	14,237	51,133	46,253	85	11	35,968	95	11	10,285	35	7	22
Moncada	2	115,722	30,104	85,618	67,500	47	7	44,041	78	9	23,460	13	4	35
Paniqui	1	155,232	25,330	129,902	88,083	29	3	54,696	57	5	33,387	8	1	38
Pura	5	24,066	5,123	18,943	29,228	113	13	28,858	110	13	370	106	17	1
Ramos	5	45,313	12,053	33,260	24,380	115	15	19,595	117	17	4,794	70	12	20
San Clemente	5	61,017	6,233	54,785	22,772	117	17	19,729	116	16	3,042	86	13	13
San Jose	4	51,766	19,694	32,072	43,750	92	12	35,478	96	12	8,272	45	9	19
San Manuel	5	24,636	11,768	12,868	27,605	114	14	24,744	114	14	2,861	88	14	10
Sta. Ignacia	3	70,495	20,466	50,029	73,500	43	6	48,929	68	8	24,571	11	2	33
Victoria	3	83,159	8,430	74,729	60,597	59	8	43,959	79	10	16,638	19	6	27
Zambales		1,300,851	404,023	896,829	782,795			668,833			113,962			15
Botolan	1	189,883	41,803	148,080	108,091	20	2	60,964	43	4	47,127	6	1	44
Cabangan	4	34,683	11,609	23,074	36,630	105	12	31,480	103	11	5,150	67	7	14
Candelaria	3	64,481	15,377	49,104	43,929	90	10	39,418	88	10	4,511	75	8	10
Castillejos	4	68,722	20,764	47,958	50,672	78	8	48,915	69	7	1,757	96	11	3
Iba	3	65,803	42,172	23,631	59,844	62	6	53,383	58	6	6,461	58	6	11
Masinloc	2	186,510	60,160	126,350	64,672	52	5	55,294	53	5	9,378	40	4	15
Palauig	3	80,234	17,144	63,090	46,953	83	9	42,751	83	9	4,202	78	10	9
San Antonio	3	108,345	28,631	79,714	53,744	73	7	42,902	82	8	10,842	34	3	20
San Felipe	4	22,434	6,730	15,704	36,869	104	11	29,894	108	13	6,975	54	5	19
San Marcelino	3	120,710	44,386	76,324	66,764	50	4	62,336	40	3	4,428	76	9	7
San Narciso	4	46,150	11,531	34,619	32,037	108	13	31,268	105	12	769	102	12	2
Sta. Cruz	2	118,889	54,017	64,872	72,454	44	3	72,590	35	2	(136)	110	13	0
Subic	1	194,007	49,700	144,306	110,136	16	1	97,637	17	1	12,499	30	2	11
REGION 4		25,569,285	8,062,067	17,507,217	15,722,431			13,417,142			2,305,289			15
Batangas		4,609,290	1,624,905	2,984,385	2,199,687			1,698,492			501,195			23
Agoncillo	4	35,247	6,820	28,427	34,377	141	25	25,410	165	25	8,967	60	20	26
Alitagtag	5	61,622	2,151	59,471	30,836	159	26	24,299	170	28	6,538	83	23	21
Balayan	1	203,308	71,540	131,768	112,296	28	5	95,678	32	5	16,618	33	8	15
Balete	5	29,722	11,719	18,003	23,649	180	30	19,938	181	29	3,712	123	30	16
Bauan	1	500,538	278,157	222,381	187,690	17	2	140,516	17	1	47,174	8	2	25
Calaca	2	67,043	48,913	18,129	100,788	38	7	96,591	31	4	4,197	119	29	4
Calatagan	3	151,876	39,334	112,541	60,773	77	13	49,197	83	12	11,576	45	13	19
Cuenca	4	66,981	5,323	61,658	37,300	131	23	26,917	158	24	10,383	51	19	28
Ibaan	3	87,433	16,543	70,891	54,534	88	15	43,278	99	14	11,256	47	15	21
Laurel	4	70,811	13,597	57,214	47,148	105	21	31,755	139	21	15,393	36	10	33
Lemery	1	110,498	22,683	87,816	91,559	43	9	80,012	43	9	11,547	46	14	13
Lian	3	28,903	4,078	24,826	47,317	104	20	39,238	112	15	8,079	67	21	17
Lobo	3	57,509	5,824	51,685	46,977	106	22	39,185	113	16	7,793	69	22	17
Mabini	2	151,804	79,538	72,266	80,368	52	10	65,024	58	11	15,344	37	11	19
Malvar	4	142,865	17,670	125,195	60,754	78	14	31,096	141	22	29,658	17	4	49
Mataas na Kahoy	5	43,685	3,758	39,927	29,696	161	27	25,205	166	26	4,491	111	27	15
Nasugbu	1	645,403	347,914	297,490	155,072	19	3	116,677	24	3	38,395	10	3	25
Padre Garcia	3	72,038	14,110	57,928	51,140	94	17	45,520	93	13	5,620	93	25	11
Rosario	1	132,526	29,567	102,958	108,929	30	6	91,842	34	6	17,086	31	7	16
San Jose	2	117,724	11,758	105,966	62,040	71	12	37,566	120	18	24,474	21	6	39
San Juan	1	138,876	15,667	123,208	94,044	41	8	83,296	41	8	10,748	49	17	11
San Luis	4	35,593	9,139	26,454	35,255	138	24	30,843	143	23	4,411	114	28	13
San Nicolas	5	24,767	5,639	19,129	23,813	179	29	19,146	184	30	4,667	107	26	20
San Pascual	1	306,470	100,363	206,107	117,470	26	4	89,206	37	7	28,265	19	5	24
Sta. Teresita	5	37,277	9,249	28,029	24,306	176	28	17,900	187	31	6,405	84	24	26
Sto. Tomas	1	918,703	339,945	578,757	230,628	14	1	133,027	19	2	97,601	3	1	42
Taal	3	111,631	41,846	69,785	51,741	92	16	35,990	123	19	15,751	35	9	30
Talisay	4	69,148	21,435	47,713	49,626	101	19	38,610	114	17	11,016	48	16	22
Taysan	2	111,521	24,710	86,811	75,601	57	11	65,135	57	10	10,467	50	18	14
Tingloy	5	21,333	1,900	19,433	22,905	181	31	24,462	169	27	(1,558)	195	31	(7)
Tuy	4	56,437	24,015	32,421	51,053	96	18	35,933	124	20	15,120	38	12	30
Cavite		4,779,789	1,478,626	3,301,163	3,235,481			2,767,034			468,447			14
Alfonso	2	48,352	15,066	33,286	67,392	62	12	61,044	64	12	6,348	85	11	9
Amadeo	4	44,056	35,046	9,010	36,762	134	17	35,304	127	17	1,459	171	17	4
Bacoor	1	769,527	278,162	491,365	404,683	6	3	366,626	4	1	38,057	11	4	9
Carmona	1	395,230	56,517	338,713	253,079	13	6	214,308	13	6	38,771	9	3	15
Dasmariñas	1	765,316	122,891	642,425	509,504	3	1	316,899	7	4	192,605	2	1	38
Gen. E. Aguinaldo	5	12,875	7,203	5,672	33,048	148	19	24,057	171	20	8,991	59	10	27
Gen. M. Alvarez	1	142,695	61,055	81,640	104,888	34	9	94,511	33	9	10,377	52	9	10
Gen. Trias	1	404,527	81,815	322,712	411,669	5	2	363,496	5	2	48,174	7	2	12
Imus	1	549,688	205,586	344,102	342,703	7	4	319,408	6	3	23,295	22	7	7
Indang	3	65,065	19,863	46,202	63,534	68	13	57,671	70	13	5,863	80	13	9
Kawit	1	221,659	131,387	90,272	84,383	49	11	78,433	46	11	5,950	88	12	7
Magallanes	5	22,300	14,709	7,591	33,120	147	18	29,891	147	19	3,229	135	16	10
Maragondon	4	38,034	14,335	23,698	44,915	116	15	39,582	110	15	5,333	101	14	12
Mendez	4	41,106	7,134	33,972	31,476	155	20	32,590	134	18	(1,114)	193	20	(4)
Naic	1	136,914	55,507	81,407	88,239	46	10	83,656	40	10	4,583	109	15	5
Noveleta	3	52,098	30,467	21,631	45,958	112	14	46,475	90	14	(518)	190	19	(1)
Rosario	1	550,746	112,476	438,270	310,875	9	5	282,588	8	5	28,287	18	6	9
Silang	1	206,383	99,731	106,652	195,877	16	7	161,563	15	7	34,314	13	5	18
Tanza	1	117,261	32,586	84,675	133,937	23	6	120,913	23	8	13,025	39	8	10
Ternate	4	104,957	97,088	7,869	39,439	129	16	38,019	118	16	1,420	172	18	4
Laguna		4,423,489	1,281,497	3,141,992	2,540,561			2,052,522			488,039			19
Alaminos	3	60,566	23,381	37,184	51,945	91	10	40,102	108	13	11,843	42	6	23
Bay	3	50,582	6,839	43,743	59,875	80	7	54,066	75	7	5,809	90	10	10
Biñan	1	1,643,491	501,976	1,141,514	617,370	1	1	385,370	3	2	232,001	1	1	38
Cabuyao	1	1,120,217	303,510	816,707	461,754	4	2	387,645	2	1	74,109	5	2	16
Calauan	3	96,608	13,274	83,334	55,094	85	9	45,099	95	12	9,995	54	7	18
Cavinti	4	74,842	10,044	64,798	57,189	84	8	35,852	125	16	21,336	25	4	37
Famy	5	17,925	1,556	16,369	21,463	186	27	19,473	182	27	1,990	156	20	9
Kalayaan	4	34,049	5,893	28,156	46,812	108	14	37,546	121	15	9,266	58	8	20
Liliw	4	40,880	22,020	18,861	39,525	128	16	38,277	115	14	1,249	174	22	3
Los Baños	1	96,733	20,953	75,780	108,622	32	5	105,803	28	5	2,819	142	16	3
Luisiana	4	21,912	4,542	17,370	29,426	162	22	27,277	157	22	2,150	154	19	7
Lumban	4	26,950	6,746	20,204	46,494	100	15	46,368	91	11	126	183	24	0
Mabitac	5	21,411	2,616	18,795	26,237	171	25	26,346	161	23	(109)	185	25	(0)
Magdalena	5	20,034	25,860	(5,825.6)	29,090	163	23	24,664	168	25	4,427	113	11	15
Majayjay	4	16,694	5,223	11,471	33,987	142	19	30,302	146	21	3,685	126	13	11
Nagcarlan	3	85,141	25,880	59,261	62,121	70	6	54,281	74	6	7,840	68	9	13
Paete	4	23,270	14,452	8,818	32,541	153	21	34,703	120	18	(2,161)	198	27	(7)
Pagsanjan	4	64,460	29,039	35,421	50,690	97	12	47,587	88	10	3,093	138	15	6
Pakil	5	16,152	6,318	9,834	27,348	167	24	25,020	167	24	2,320	149	18	9
Pangil	4	40,895	2,990	37,905	32,962	149	20	30,383	145	20	2,579	148	17	8
Pila	4	51,363	20,936	30,427	51,017	99	11	47,654	87	9	3,363	130	14	7
Rizal	5	16,603	6,055	10,548	22,523	182	28	21,446	177	28	1,076	178	23	5
San Pedro	1	450,816	101,426	349,390	316,048	8	3	249,974	10	3	66,074	6	3	21
Siniloan	3	60,591	28,401	32,191	50,297	89	13	48,757	86	8	1,540	167	21	3
Sta. Cruz	1	197,663	55,858	141,806	139,793	21	4	121,506	22	4	18,288	30	5	13
Sta. Maria	4	45,027	22,684	22,343	35,381	136	17	31,674	140	19	3,706	124	12	10
Victoria	4	28,803	13,017	15,786	34,986	138	18	35,351	126	17	(365)	187	26	(1)
Marinduque		465,759	62,512	403,247	293,420			263,906			29,523			10
Boac	2	131,903	21,450	110,453	65,532	65	2	53,163	76	2	12,368	40	1	19
Buenavista	4	29,392	10,382	19,009	32,204	164	6	26,601	159	6	5,603	94	3	17
Gasan	4	60,301	6,404	53,897	38,242	130	5	33,872	130	5	4,370	118	4	11
Mogpog	4	59,432	11,385	48,048	41,582	123	3	39,396	111	4	2,186	153	5	5
Sta. Cruz	1	160,128	9,676	150,453	75,725	56	1	69,103	62	1	6,621	80	2	9
Torrijos	4	24,602	3,215	21,387	40,145	127	4	41,770	104	3	(1,625)	196	6	(4)
Occidental Mindoro		876,190	245,035	631,155	722,382			651,315			71,067			10
Abra De Ilog	4	68,643	6,231	62,413	61,656	75	4	50,010	80	5	11,646	43	2	19
Calintaan	4	39,181	9,917	29,264	46,211	110	6	40,771	108	8	5,440	97	4	12
Looc	5	23,907	5,346	18,562	22,154	184	11	17,179	180	11	4,976	102	5	22
Lubang	4	37,176	9,019	28,157	33,545	144	10	28,769	152	10	4,777	105	6	14
Magsaysay	3	48,061	19,935	28,126	44,567	117	8	41,250	105	7	3,317	132	9	7
Mamburao	3	60,490	18,513	41,977	59,546	81	5	57,765	68	3	1,780	159	10	3
Paluan	3	70,776	11,743	59,033	45,418	114	7	43,845	97	6	1,573	166	11	3
Rizal	4	24,508	3,525	20,983	43,535	119	9	39,984	109	9	3,551	128	8	8
Sablayan	1	243,896	29,432	214,464	164,804	18	1	142,321	16	1	22,483	23	1	14
San Jose	1	193,044	118,866	74,178	138,986	22	2	134,597	18	2	4,389	115	7	3
Sta. Cruz	3	66,508	12,508	54,000	61,960	72	3	54,824	73	4	7,135	73	3	12
Oriental Mindoro		1,168,762	198,667	970,095	800,410			726,165			74,245			9
Baco	4	79,072	15,886	63,185	41,492	124	12	37,961	119	12	3,532	129	11	9
Bansud	3	73,229	6,101	67,128	51,669	93	7	43,148	100	9	8,521	66	3	16
Bongabong	1	134,898	13,901	120,996	78,008	54	3	67,976	53	3	10,032	53	1	13
Bulalacao	3	29,306	11,907	17,399	46,030	111	10	46,848	89	7	(818)	192	14	(2)
Gloria	3	87,024	10,099	76,925	48,152	102	9	42,049	103	11	6,103	87	6	13
Mansalay	3	94,505	33,144	61,361	60,088	79	5	55,469	72	5	4,619	108	9	8
Naujan	1	182,295	14,318	167,977	98,207	40	1	89,650	36	1	8,557	65	2	9
Pinamalayan	1	75,531	8,813	66,717	86,399	47	2	81,055	42	2	5,343	99	8	6
Pola	4	77,074	17,948	59,126	40,293	126	13	33,559	132	14	6,734	79	4	17
Puerto Galera	3	76,072	12,070	64,002	63,842	67	4	57,721	69	4	6,121	86	5	10
Roxas	3	62,484	7,203	55,281	49,956	100	8	44,332	96	8	5,624	92	7	11
San Teodoro	4	45,250	11,191	34,060	37,167	132	14	33,838	131	13	3,329	131	12	9
Socorro	3	69,582	18,686	50,896	45,443	113	11	42,564	102	10	2,878	141	13	6
Victoria	3	82,441	17,398	65,043	53,664	89	6	49,994	81	6	3,670	127	10	7
Palawan		1,413,237	451,652	961,585	1,345,889			1,173,152			172,736			13
Aborlan	2	91,246	25,989	65,256	70,971	58	10	61,213	63	10	9,758	55	6	14
Agutaya	5	25,029	1,254	23,775	19,306	191	21	16,583	192	21	2,723	145	16	14
Araceli	5	19,054	8,282	10,773	30,803	160	17	28,096	154	17	2,708	146	17	9
Balabac	3	43,936	9,477	34,459	54,276	87	11	49,317	82	11	4,959	103	11	9
Bataraza	2	71,473	8,945	62,528	82,651	51	8	70,494	51	8	12,156	41	5	15
Brooke's Point	1	123,581	26,918	96,663	112,149	29	2	105,079	27	1	7,070	74	9	6
Busuanga		53,795	10,451	43,344	42,018	121	15	38,251	116	15	4,667	106	12	11
Cagayancillo	5	11,282	7,158	4,124	16,266	197	22	15,892	195	22	374	182	22	2
Coron	1	144,123	54,648	89,475	76,074	55	9	66,614	54	9	9,450	57	7	12
Culion	4	33,151	13,103	20,048	44,177	118	13	43,107	101	13	1,070	177	20	2
Cuyo	4	26,737	11,241	15,496	32,550	152	16	30,956	142	16	1,595	164	19	5
Dumaran	4	64,276	16,844	47,432	43,271	120	14	40,478	107	14	2,793	143	15	6
El Nido	1	58,858	8,631	50,226	82,684	50	7	75,718	47	6	6,966	76	10	8
Española	4	84,474	44,754	39,720	50,558	98	12	46,014	92	12	4,544	110	13	9
Kalayaan	5	24,538	2,421	22,117	24,339	175	19	21,061	178	19	3,278	133	14	13
Linapacan	5	24,284	6,093	18,190	27,024	170	18	26,504	160	18	520	179	21	2
Magsaysay	5	18,575	3,227	15,348	21,673	185	20	19,420	183	20	2,253	151	18	10
Narra	1	126,655	53,511	73,144	99,518	39	5	78,700	45	5	20,819	26	2	21
Quezon	1	75,443	17,952	57,491	88,446	45	6	79,495	44	4	8,951	61	8	10
Roxas	1	91,941	38,637	53,304	104,322	36	4	87,356	38	3	16,967	32	4	16
San Vicente	1	73,505	60,678	12,827	104,635	35	3	74,283	48	7	30,352	16	1	29
Taytay	1	127,282	21,436	105,846	117,277	27	1	98,521	30	2	18,755	29	3	16
Quezon		3,552,948	1,297,388	2,255,560	2,207,423			2,003,129			204,293			9
Agdangan	5	21,357	5,364	15,994	20,040	190	37	16,875	191	37	3,166	136	23	16
Alabat	5	17,037	2,915	14,122	25,589	173	34	22,335	174	34	3,254	134	22	13
Atimonan	2	83,196	15,548	67,648	70,837	59	9	66,594	55	8	4,243	118	20	6
Buenavista	4	54,758	19,524	35,234	32,572	151	26	32,574	135	23	(2)	184	34	(0)
Burdeos	4	50,314	20,911	29,403	35,086	137	23	28,058	155	29	7,029	75	10	20
Calauag	2	112,166	29,708	82,458	66,313	63	11	60,561	65	13	5,752	91	14	9
Candelaria	1	106,900	38,301	68,600	102,635	37	4	91,021	35	4	11,614	44	5	11
Catanauan	2	91,298	14,008	77,290	61,741	73	15	62,349	62	12	(608)	191	36	(1)
Dolores	4	47,541	15,511	32,030	32,689	150	25	29,539	148	26	3,150	137	24	10
General Luna	4	38,590	14,212	24,378	27,834	166	30	29,021	151	28	(1,187)	194	37	(4)
General Nakar	1	136,489	39,699	96,789	84,797	48	7	64,857	59	9	19,940	27	2	24
Guinayangan	3	67,660	15,663	51,997	46,870	107	20	38,021	117	20	8,849	63	8	19
Gumaca	2	111,496	43,440	68,056	70,485	61	10	63,928	60	10	6,557	82	13	9
Infanta	2	89,711	9,437	80,274	64,987	66	13	48,938	84	18	16,049	34	4	25
Jomalig	5	8,627	897	7,730	17,129	196	39	16,188	194	39	941	178	32	5
Lopez	1	137,777	32,097	105,680	92,315	42	5	70,943	50	7	21,371	24	1	23
Lucban	3	42,233	13,527	28,706	63,494	69	14	59,007	66	14	4,487	112	18	7
Macalelon	4	27,555	15,534	12,021	33,198	145	24	36,577	122	21	(3,380)	199	39	(10)
Mauban	1	704,282	333,040	371,242	254,956	12	1	248,388	11	1	6,569	81	12	3
Mulanay	2	49,884	16,363	33,521	60,928	76	16	62,750	61	11	(1,822)	197	38	(3)
Padre Burgos	5	36,140	17,883	18,257	27,277	168	31	25,767	163	31	1,511	168	30	6
Pagbilao	1	572,998	226,266	346,731	121,780	24	2	102,713	28	3	19,067	28	3	16
Panukulan	5	44,846	12,058	32,788	27,204	169	32	25,436	164	32	1,769	160	26	7
Perez	5	23,694	8,870	14,824	20,258	189	36	18,560	185	36	1,698	163	29	8
Pitogo	5	50,927	20,481	30,446	28,735	164	29	23,191	172	33	5,543	96	15	19
Plaridel	5	21,531	8,886	12,645	17,865	193	38	16,386	193	38	1,479	170	31	8
Polillo	4	38,810	12,805	26,004	41,667	122	21	32,148	136	24	9,519	56	6	23
Quezon	5	24,168	8,699	15,469	23,931	177	35	19,993	180	35	3,937	121	21	16
Real	2	69,819	24,260	45,559	58,488	83	18	53,154	77	16	5,334	100	17	9
Sampaloc	5	24,654	9,390	15,265	26,851	172	33	26,335	162	30	(484)	189	35	(2)
San Andres	4	20,694	3,671	17,023	36,815	133	22	35,086	128	22	1,730	161	27	5
San Antonio	4	19,531	14,274	5,257	31,149	157	28	30,647	144	25	502	180	33	2
San Francisco	3	41,403	23,558	17,845	58,499	82	17	50,832	78	17	7,667	70	9	13
San Narciso	3	68,873	5,258	63,615	48,071	103	19	43,825	98	19	4,245	117	19	9
Sariaya	1	89,763	27,830	61,933	108,278	33	3	106,555	25	2	1,723	162	28	2
Tagkawayan	2	150,099	62,648	87,451	65,596	64	12	56,713	71	15	8,883	62	7	14
Tayabas	1	100,462	45,393	55,069	89,914	44	6	84,503	39	5	5,411	98	16	6
Tiaong	1	91,836	50,245	41,591	80,265	53	8	73,349	49	6	6,915	77	11	9
Unisan	4	63,829	19,215	44,614	31,285	156	27	29,411	150	27	1,874	157	25	6
Rizal		3,758,175	1,279,378	2,478,797	1,956,107			1,715,388			240,720			12
Angono	1	146,615	57,378	89,237	108,882	31	7	101,349	29	7	7,533	71	6	7
Baras	4	42,481	32,329	10,152	34,425	140	12	32,618	133	12	1,807	158	11	5
Binangonan	1	380,980	304,693	76,287	200,661	15	4	168,577	14	4	32,084	15	4	16
Cainta	1	1,743,678	363,194	1,380,484	510,776	2	1	413,607	1	1	97,169	4	1	19
Cardona	3	58,579	9,967	48,612	45,036	115	11	45,430	94	11	(394)	188	12	(1)
Jala-Jala	4	49,023	18,550	30,473	33,133	146	13	28,272	153	13	4,860	104	7	15
Morong	3	49,093	16,237	32,856	52,640	90	10	50,533	79	10	2,107	155	10	4
Pililla	2	128,092	14,832	113,260	70,588	60	8	66,407	56	8	4,180	120	8	6
Rodriguez	1	355,250	303,488	51,762	295,317	10	2	262,806	9	2	32,511	14	3	11
San Mateo	1	268,479	36,622	231,857	150,604	20	5	122,646	21	6	27,957	20	5	19
Tanay	1	171,174	32,882	138,293	119,120	25	6	127,665	20	5	(8,545)	200	13	(7)
Taytay	1	301,623	64,106	237,517	273,234	11	3	236,556	12	3	36,679	12	2	13
Teresa	3	63,108	25,101	38,007	61,692	74	9	58,922	67	9	2,770	144	9	4
Romblon		521,648	142,408	379,239	421,042			366,039			55,004			13
Alcantara	5	17,049	4,338	12,711	22,389	183	9	21,907	175	7	482	181	16	2
Banton	5	19,237	3,676	15,561	18,162	192	12	16,993	190	12	1,168	175	15	6
Cajidiocan	4	48,485	5,702	42,782	30,938	158	5	29,428	149	4	1,510	169	13	5
Calatrava	5	43,298	2,197	41,101	21,205	187	10	17,503	188	11	3,702	125	6	17
Concepcion	5	19,302	2,785	16,518	15,914	198	15	12,895	199	16	3,018	139	7	19
Corcuera	5	21,597	987	20,609	20,899	188	11	18,269	186	10	2,630	147	9	13
Ferrol	5	13,720	5,286	8,434	15,909	199	16	13,709	198	15	2,200	152	11	14
Looc	4	41,862	28,577	13,285	33,699	143	4	32,117	138	3	1,582	165	12	5
Magdiwang	5	26,281	5,950	20,331	23,896	178	8	22,556	173	6	1,340	173	14	6
Odiongan	3	76,923	32,553	44,370	54,163	88	1	48,584	86	1	5,579	95	4	10
Romblon	4	62,132	18,019	44,113	40,949	125	2	32,139	137	2	8,810	64	1	22
San Agustin	4	33,704	6,038	27,667	34,606	139	3	27,709	156	5	6,896	78	3	20
San Andres	5	24,612	5,995	18,617	25,487	174	7	21,756	176	8	3,732	122	5	15
San Fernando	4	3,176	1,105	2,070	266	200	17	630	200	17	(364)	186	17	(137)
San Jose		10,259	2,217	8,042	17,526	194	13	14,631	197	14	2,895	140	8	17
Sta. Fe	5	41,312	12,181	29,131	27,904	165	6	20,389	179	9	7,515	72	2	27
Sta. Maria	5	18,699	4,802	13,897	17,131	195	14	14,823	196	13	2,308	150	10	13

Difference between totals and sum of components is due to rounding off

Rank
1-Regionwide Ranking
2-Provincewide Ranking

LGUs with unsubmitted year-end financial reports as of cut-off date of June 15, 2007-
Region 4
1) Rizal, Palawan 2) Patnanungan, Quezon

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
COMMISSION ON AUDIT

Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City

FINANCIAL REPORTS OF MUNICIPALITIES
REGIONS 5, 6 AND 7

Fiscal Year 2006
(in thousand pesos)

Local Government Units	Class	Balance Sheet			Statement of Income and Expenses									
		Total Assets	Total Liabilities	Total Equity	Total Income	Rank 1	Rank 2	Total Expenses	Rank 1	Rank 2	Net Income (Net Loss)	Rank 1	Rank 2	% of Net Income (Net Loss) to Total Income
REGION 5		6,739,426	2,050,617	4,688,809	4,032,483			4,361,640			570,842			12
Albay		1,560,716	392,068	1,168,649	883,088			733,402			149,687			17
Bacacay	2	132,100	13,821	118,279	60,407	25	8	40,938	41	9	19,469	3	2	32
Camalig	2	100,212	18,391	81,821	63,025	23	7	53,294	23	6	9,731	17	8	15
Daraga	1	284,691	95,126	189,565	116,982	1	1	87,659	2	1	29,323	1	1	25
Guinobatan	1	116,504	21,739	94,765	76,567	9	3	62,843	16	5	13,723	5	4	18
Jovellar	5	24,694	4,558	20,136	26,560	93	15	22,646	95	15	3,915	53	12	15
Libon	2	163,881	24,441	139,440	67,652	15	4	48,574	31	7	19,078	4	3	28
Malilipot	4	51,165	10,526	40,639	41,915	55	12	29,122	74	13	12,794	9	5	31
Malinao	4	50,685	22,266	28,419	42,493	53	11	37,766	63	10	4,727	46	11	11
Manito	4	63,498	14,437	49,061	31,439	79	14	26,462	84	14	4,977	44	10	16
Oas	2	51,761	25,527	26,234	65,867	18	6	62,880	15	4	2,987	64	13	5
Pio Duran	3	81,130	25,470	55,661	58,091	29	9	45,391	33	8	12,700	10	6	22
Polangui	1	128,113	55,198	72,915	79,497	7	2	77,693	4	2	1,803	85	14	2
Rapu-Rapu	4	43,663	5,344	38,318	44,660	46	10	34,066	62	11	10,594	14	7	24
Santo Domingo	4	105,370	15,089	90,281	40,385	61	13	31,253	68	12	9,131	21	9	23
Tiwi	2	163,248	40,133	123,115	67,549	16	5	72,816	6	3	(5,268)	107	15	(8)
Camarines Norte		962,790	292,405	670,385	625,076			548,883			76,192			12
Basud	3	74,303	26,650	47,652	47,438	39	6	40,930	42	5	6,508	36	7	14
Capalonga	4	75,233	24,845	50,388	43,594	49	9	37,859	52	7	5,735	39	8	13
Daet	1	143,755	75,853	67,902	105,558	2	1	93,885	1	1	11,673	12	2	11
Jose Panganiban	2	59,232	7,238	51,995	59,573	27	3	53,061	24	3	6,512	36	6	11
Labo	1	174,279	60,809	113,470	101,017	3	2	87,426	3	2	13,590	6	1	13
Mercedes	3	87,147	15,404	71,743	52,402	33	4	50,443	29	4	1,959	82	10	4
Paracale	3	121,878	20,214	101,664	47,816	38	5	40,654	43	6	7,162	31	5	15
San Lorenzo Ruiz	5	28,236	6,397	21,839	28,048	86	11	23,556	94	11	4,491	48	9	16
San Vicente	5	12,244	3,770	8,474	19,908	108	12	19,926	104	12	(18)	101	12	(0)
Santa Elena	3	109,069	28,446	80,623	45,252	45	8	35,976	66	9	9,276	20	3	20
Talisay	5	35,990	13,810	22,179	28,514	84	10	28,047	76	10	466	95	11	2
Vinzons	3	41,423	8,967	32,456	45,057	44	7	37,119	55	8	8,638	25	4	19
Camarines Sur		1,826,321	607,065	1,219,256	1,617,174			1,464,745			152,429			9
Baao	3	50,946	14,320	36,626	40,357	43	14	39,895	46	18	9,462	37	9	14
Balatan	4	60,230	22,308	37,922	28,778	83	28	27,251	83	30	1,527	86	26	5
Bato	3	39,909	18,121	21,789	43,890	48	16	41,330	40	15	2,560	88	18	6
Bombon	5	32,469	5,261	27,208	21,137	105	34	18,968	106	34	2,169	77	22	10
Buhi	2	52,631	9,581	43,050	69,606	13	5	65,605	13	5	3,801	55	14	6
Bula	3	98,634	44,228	54,407	63,831	21	9	59,732	18	7	4,099	60	12	6
Cabusao	5	32,649	6,439	26,210	23,466	101	33	23,649	93	32	(183)	103	33	(1)
Calabanga	2	78,296	40,963	37,332	72,852	11	4	70,766	8	2	2,086	70	24	3
Camaligan	5	33,301	3,696	29,604	24,957	97	32	21,490	97	33	3,466	58	15	14
Canaman	4	40,453	2,699	37,755	33,137	74	25	30,809	70	26	2,328	70	19	7
Caramoan	4	33,410	6,554	26,864	53,851	32	12	42,177	37	13	11,674	11	3	22
Del Gallego	4	70,824	15,400	55,424	34,452	69	24	26,082	87	31	8,370	27	7	24
Gainza	5	9,840	6,560	3,279	18,835	107	35	16,651	107	35	1,284	87	27	8
Garchitorena	4	27,353	8,285	19,068	38,061	63	20	32,886	66	24	5,175	43	11	14
Goa	2	60,366	33,631	26,735	63,786	22	10	58,392	20	9	5,394	42	10	8
Lagonoy	3	39,730	8,973	30,757	59,650	26	11	50,534	28	11	9,117	23	5	15
Libmanan	1	111,180	46,246	65,934	91,579	4	1	67,363	11	4	24,216	2	1	26
Lupi	4	39,975	18,765	21,190	41,886	56	17	39,173	48	19	2,713	90	17	6
Magarao	5	19,873	2,667	17,206	27,827	80	31	27,926	70	28	(99)	102	32	(0)
Milaor	4	54,812	29,925	24,888	31,694	78	27	32,953	64	22	(1,259)	105	35	(4)
Minalabac	4	59,958	17,194	42,764	42,965	50	16	40,652	44	16	2,313	71	20	5
Nabua	2	69,953	23,762	46,191	83,543	5	2	74,480	5	1	9,063	24	6	11
Ocampo	4	28,015	9,958	18,056	41,605	58	18	41,942	39	14	(337)	104	34	(1)
Pamplona	4	30,089	7,448	22,641	37,451	65	21	33,519	63	21	3,932	52	13	10
Pasacao	3	48,729	21,985	26,744	47,101	41	13	44,994	34	12	2,107	78	23	4
Pili	1	99,799	19,122	80,677	77,178	8	3	70,391	9	3	6,787	33	8	9
Presentacion	5	29,705	15,619	14,086	28,100	87	30	27,620	81	20	480	94	30	2
Ragay	2	64,887	21,701	43,186	64,547	19	7	63,323	14	6	1,224	88	28	2
Sagnay	4	58,515	34,298	24,216	36,056	67	22	34,240	61	20	1,816	84	25	5
San Fernando	4	68,362	9,488	58,874	32,342	76	26	30,077	71	26	2,265	73	21	7
San Jose	4	43,173	19,889	23,284	35,902	68	23	32,889	65	23	3,013	63	16	8
Sipocot	2	73,952	23,372	50,581	68,556	14	6	58,549	19	8	10,008	16	4	15
Siruma	5	18,132	2,833	15,300	28,376	85	29	28,014	77	27	362	96	31	1
Tigaon	4	31,936	14,606	17,331	41,602	59	19	40,520	45	17	1,082	90	29	3
Tinambac	2	116,224	23,049	93,175	64,250	20	8	50,913	27	10	13,337	7	2	21
Catanduanes		443,731	105,089	338,642	362,636			327,898			34,739			10
Bagamanoc	5	15,954	2,967	12,986	22,397	102	10	20,048	103	11	2,349	69	7	10
Baras	5	25,605	4,077	21,527	23,699	100	9	20,660	100	10	3,039	61	5	13
Bato	5	36,832	11,540	25,292	25,384	96	8	22,132	96	8	3,252	59	4	13
Caramoran	4	32,407	7,268	25,139	40,373	62	3	37,713	54	2	2,660	67	6	7
Gigmoto	5	29,327	3,172	26,155	28,229	86	5	24,733	90	6	3,496	57	3	12
Pandan	5	38,629	5,808	32,821	27,750	90	6	25,493	88	5	2,257	74	9	8
Panganiban	5	7,589	2,328	5,261	21,223	104	11	21,081	98	9	142	99	11	1
San Andres	4	50,547	21,834	28,714	40,723	60	2	35,306	59	3	5,417	41	2	13
San Miguel	5	22,015	4,291	17,724	25,720	95	7	23,869	92	7	1,851	83	10	7
Viga	4	22,981	10,423	12,558	31,149	80	4	28,878	75	4	2,271	72	8	7
Virac	1	161,843	31,379	130,464	75,991	10	1	67,985	10	1	8,006	29	1	11
Masbate		1,179,069	303,969	875,101	818,913			720,871			98,042			12
Aroroy	1	136,875	53,626	83,249	70,151	12	1	66,286	12	1	3,865	56	11	6
Baleno	4	50,377	17,382	32,995	33,068	75	14	20,162	102	19	12,906	8	1	39
Balud	4	66,125	13,916	52,209	41,773	57	10	38,661	49	8	3,112	60	12	7
Batuan	5	24,134	4,429	19,704	21,459	103	20	20,356	101	18	1,103	89	16	5
Cataingan	3	69,970	10,498	59,472	55,893	30	3	46,568	32	5	9,325	19	3	17
Cawayan	3	37,981	8,595	29,386	52,190	34	4	51,580	25	3	610	93	18	1
Claveria	3	75,290	11,550	63,740	41,992	54	9	35,417	58	10	6,575	34	8	16
Dimasalang	4	50,119	25,183	24,936	31,718	77	15	27,827	80	15	3,891	54	10	12
Esperanza	5	22,849	2,728	20,121	24,940	98	19	24,196	91	17	744	92	17	3
Mandaon	3	55,550	18,399	37,152	44,462	47	8	35,696	57	9	8,766	26	5	20
Milagros	2	138,661	33,712	104,949	66,997	17	2	57,874	21	2	9,123	22	4	14
Mobo	4	30,864	13,435	17,429	33,931	72	12	31,675	67	11	2,256	75	14	7
Monreal	4	46,190	10,552	35,638	29,224	82	17	26,203	86	16	3,021	62	13	10
Palanas	4	37,525	7,586	29,938	33,247	73	13	31,215	69	12	2,031	81	15	6
Pio V. Corpuz	4	25,032	6,222	18,810	29,906	81	16	29,736	72	13	170	98	19	1
Placer	3	64,497	17,903	46,594	51,058	35	5	39,561	47	7	11,498	13	2	23
San Fernando	-	50,146	5,514	44,632	26,830	92	18	18,979	105	20	7,850	30	6	29
San Jacinto	4	75,929	17,942	57,987	33,951	71	11	27,963	78	14	5,989	38	9	18
San Pascual	3	69,099	12,384	56,714	47,236	40	7	48,878	30	4	(1,642)	106	20	(3)
Uson	3	51,858	12,412	39,446	48,885	37	6	42,035	38	6	6,850	32	7	14
Sorsogon		766,799	350,022	416,777	625,595			565,842			59,753			10
Barcelona	5	14,607	7,117	7,490	27,689	91	12	25,487	89	13	2,202	76	10	8
Bulan	1	125,404	58,944	66,460	81,572	6	1	71,929	7	1	9,643	18	2	12
Bulusan	5	34,256	32,465	1,791	34,176	70	11	29,527	73	10	4,648	47	6	14
Casiguran	4	87,933	44,024	43,909	37,888	64	9	27,535	82	11	10,353	15	1	27
Castilla	3	77,187	38,320	38,868	48,932	38	5	43,512	35	5	5,421	40	4	11
Donsol	3	31,384	8,658	22,725	46,975	42	6	42,660	36	6	4,315	49	7	9
Gubat	2	79,837	38,838	40,998	59,400	28	3	51,197	26	4	8,203	28	3	14
Irosin	3	54,808	12,518	42,290	53,924	31	4	53,676	22	3	248	97	13	0
Juban	4	53,294	18,832	34,462	37,064	66	10	34,982	60	9	2,082	80	11	6
Magallanes	4	61,772	24,941	36,831	42,808	51	7	37,993	51	8	4,816	45	5	11
Matnog	4	55,676	19,281	36,395	42,501	52	8	38,465	50	7	4,036	51	8	9
Pilar	2	45,897	38,042	7,856	62,574	24	2	61,826	17	2	748	91	12	1
Prieto Diaz	5	17,999	10,079	7,920	26,336	94	13	26,209	85	12	127	100	14	0
Santa Magdalena	5	26,745	6,963	19,782	23,756	99	14	20,845	99	14	2,911	65	9	12
REGION 6		7,953,058	2,513,844	5,439,215	5,353,865			4,707,146			646,719			12
Aklan		820,093	208,479	611,614	669,006			578,350			90,655			14
Altavas	4	34,170	8,814	25,356	33,343	96	13	30,343	91	11	2,999	79	10	9
Balete	4	48,362	6,349	42,013	33,876	88	10	24,228	106	14	9,648	16	3	28
Banga	4	62,240	5,029	57,211	39,100	67	7	31,977	77	7	7,123	26	6	18
Buruanga	5	24,622	7,421	17,201	26,296	109	15	23,335	110	15	2,961	80	11	11
Ibajay	3	60,074	32,174	27,900	49,645	41	3	46,690	33	3	2,955	81	12	6
Kalibo	1	141,065	32,843	108,223	104,978	1	1	94,265	1	1	10,713	12	2	10
Lezo	5	20,489	7,767	12,722	21,242	113	16	19,223	114	16	2,019	94	13	10
Libacao	5	46,034	5,748	40,285	40,686	65	5	36,508	59	4	4,168	57	9	10
Madalag	4	40,772	22,448	18,324	36,694	76	9	30,318	83	9	6,376	35	8	17
Makato	4	48,155	15,670	32,485	40,305	66	6	33,723	69	6	6,582	31	7	16
Malay	3	89,907	24,684	65,223	70,114	10	2	57,283	16	2	12,830	8	1	18
Malinao	4	58,282	10,089	48,193	37,135	74	8	28,070	93	12	9,065	18	4	24
Nabas	4	29,567	7,219	22,347	33,342	90	11	31,778	81	8	1,563	103	16	5
New Washington	4	61,292	13,205	48,087	41,998	59	4	34,050	67	5	7,948	22	5	19
Numancia	4	25,551	4,391	21,160	32,051	93	12	30,245	84	10	1,806	102	15	6
Tangalan	5	29,511	4,627	24,885	28,221	105	14	26,314	100	13	1,907	99	14	7
Antique		1,110,621	333,188	777,433	751,952			621,293			130,658			17
Anini-y	5	29,698	13,868	15,830	30,459	99	15	25,511	102	15	4,948	49	8	16
Barbaza	5	40,336	3,773	36,562	31,919	94	13	29,911	86	11	2,008	95	15	6
Belison	5	31,255	11,127	20,128	20,821	114	18	19,954	113	18	867	107	16	4
Bugasong	4	67,636	19,483	48,153	40,717	64	8	35,817	61	7	4,900	50	9	12
Caluya	4	154,787	24,104	130,682	93,666	5	1	33,730	68	9	59,936	1	1	64
Culasi	3	40,150	10,143	30,007	48,008	44	5	42,103	47	4	5,905	39	4	12
Hamtic	4	28,656	14,394	14,263	41,383	62	7	38,851	53	6	2,531	85	13	6
Laua-an	4	38,879	5,227	33,652	31,585	97	14	27,177	97	14	4,408	53	10	14
Libertad	5	50,980	23,248	27,732	24,338	112	17	23,916	108	17	422	108	17	2
Pandan	4	66,306	43,786	22,520	34,494	82	12	34,804	64	8	(310)	113	18	(1)
Patnoñgon	4	47,661	2,766	44,895	43,343	55	6	39,232	52	5	4,111	58	11	9
San Jose de Buenavista	2	114,215	25,921	88,295	72,369	8	2	59,165	13	1	13,204	6	2	18
San Remegio	3	85,028	35,645	49,383	48,751	42	4	43,757	41	3	4,994	48	7	10
Sebaste	5	35,446	7,024	28,422	27,001	107	16	24,733	104	16	2,268	89	14	8
Sibalom	2	99,657	17,562	82,094	56,531	27	3	53,271	24	2	3,260	73	12	6
Tibiao	4	60,083	14,637	45,446	34,607	81	11	29,342	90	13	5,265	45	6	15
Tobias Fornier	4	49,241	18,154	31,086	36,362	77	9	29,820	87	12	6,542	33	3	18
Valderrama	4	70,605	42,324	28,281	35,597	78	10	30,198	85	10	5,399	42	5	15
Capiz		795,386	194,109	601,277	686,096			617,782			68,313			10
Cuartero	4	66,687	36,573	30,114	34,711	80	13	32,240	75	12	2,472	86	14	7
Dao	4	19,815	5,225	14,590	36,814	75	11	33,546	72	11	3,268	72	12	9
Dumalag	4	86,290	10,189	76,101	35,017	79	12	29,800	88	13	5,217	46	6	15
Dumarao	3	49,419	12,235	37,183	50,100	40	4	46,608	35	4	3,492	67	11	7
Ivisan	4	66,960	12,298	54,662	32,078	92	16	28,355	92	15	3,723	82	10	12
Jamindan	3	39,583	5,947	33,636	53,507	33	3	46,623	34	3	6,884	27	2	13
Maayon	4	41,457	8,010	33,447	55,827	29	2	49,230	28	2	6,597	30	3	12
Mambusao	4	57,136	12,236	44,900	43,450	54	8	34,594	65	9	8,856	19	1	20
Panay	3	28,690	13,711	14,980	46,398	49	5	46,392	36	5	6	111	15	0
Panitan	4	43,788	8,428	35,360	45,491	51	6	40,783	50	7	4,708	52	7	10
Pilar	4	58,315	6,157	52,158	41,001	63	9	37,947	56	8	3,055	78	13	7
Pontevedra	3	35,454	9,882	25,572	45,216	52	7	45,677	37	6	(461)	114	16	(1)
President Roxas	4	50,134	20,266	29,868	37,442	73	10	33,596	71	10	3,846	60	9	10
Sapian	4	57,909	14,692	43,217	33,947	86	15	27,658	95	16	6,290	37	4	19
Sigma	4	57,915	9,641	48,274	34,139	84	14	29,733	89	14	4,406	54	8	13
Tapaz	2	35,835	8,618	27,217	60,956	21	1	55,001	20	1	5,954	38	5	10
Guimaras		350,820	113,726	237,094	168,467			152,074			16,393			10
Buenavista	3	79,860	17,777	62,084	51,486	38	1	44,948	40	2	6,538	34	1	13
Jordan	3	89,086	29,928	59,159	46,785	48	2	45,607	38	1	1,178	105	4	3
Nueva Valencia	4	121,149	24,780	96,369	42,787	57	3	37,238	58	3	5,549	40	2	13
San Lorenzo	5	60,725	41,242	19,483	27,409	106	4	24,280	105	4	3,128	76	3	11
Iloilo		2,816,413	880,530	1,935,884	1,905,520			1,716,702			188,818			10
Ajuy	3	62,239	10,324	51,915	46,907	47	20	43,290	44	18	3,617	63	19	8
Alimodian	4	51,861	13,241	38,620	42,868	56	21	36,256	60	25	6,612	29	10	15
Anilao	4	37,994	13,905	24,089	32,793	91	33	30,819	82	33	1,974	97	35	6
Badiangan	4	49,948	12,950	36,998	30,183	100	35	26,788	99	36	3,395	71	24	11
Balasan	4	38,734	6,825	31,909	34,384	83	30	31,822	78	31	2,562	84	30	7
Banate	4	57,730	24,481	33,249	38,467	69	26	33,130	73	28	5,337	43	13	14
Barotac Nuevo	3	62,333	3,516	58,817	55,427	30	11	54,411	23	10	1,016	106	40	2
Barotac Viejo	4	68,520	13,078	55,442	47,809	45	19	43,535	42	17	4,274	56	17	9
Batad	5	22,417	4,168	18,249	24,934	111	41	20,083	112	41	4,851	51	15	19
Bingawan	4	25,655	3,773	21,882	25,097	110	40	22,345	111	40	2,753	82	28	11
Cabatuan	3	127,861	39,036	88,824	53,704	32	13	47,136	32	16	6,568	32	11	12
Calinog	2	73,163	17,225	55,938	63,781	18	7	57,005	18	7	6,775	28	9	11
Carles	3	66,916	42,968	23,949	52,842	35	15	48,849	29	13	3,994	59	18	8
Concepcion	4	47,419	18,787	28,632	41,404	61	24	41,365	49	20	39	110	42	0
Dingle	3	88,807	16,943	71,864	48,439	43	18	38,534	54	22	9,905	13	3	20
Dueñas	3	78,540	31,071	47,469	39,042	68	25	33,640	70	27	5,402	41	12	14
Dumangas	3	153,307	22,580	130,727	66,374	15	5	64,391	7	1	1,983	96	34	3
Estancia	4	50,627	29,877	20,750	51,363	39	17	48,140	30	14	3,222	75	26	6
Guimbal	4	73,412	17,218	56,194	37,460	72	29	34,238	66	26	3,222	74	25	9
Igbaras	3	48,486	15,312	33,175	38,363	70	27	33,044	74	29	5,319	44	14	14
Janiuay	2	72,717	35,801	36,916	66,621	13	4	63,116	8	2	3,505	65	21	5
Lambunao	2	74,020	21,615	52,405	65,119	17	6	62,648	10	3	2,470	87	31	4
Leganes	4	61,947	30,243	31,704	33,963	85	31	32,126	76	30	1,837	101	36	5
Lemery	4	40,916	12,825	28,091	33,945	87	32	31,794	80	32	2,152	90	32	6
Leon	3	82,250	29,303	52,947	58,001	25	9	50,410	27	12	7,590	23	7	13
Maasin	3	53,004	17,434	35,570	41,921	60	23	38,452	55	23	3,470	69	23	8
Miagao	3	119,069	49,295	69,774	66,985	12	3	57,124	17	6	9,861	14	4	15
Mina	5	81,519	18,013	63,507	26,995	108	39	23,518	109	39	3,477	68	22	13
New Lucena	4	43,968	6,698	37,260	28,755	103	38	25,149	103	37	3,606	64	20	13
Oton	2	113,028	31,826	81,202	72,078	9	1	58,820	14	5	13,258	5	1	18
Pavia	3	77,743	37,871	39,872	56,587	28	10	54,707	21	8	1,880	100	37	3
Pototan	2	155,234	52,948	102,286	68,925	11	2	59,200	12	4	9,724	15	5	14
San Dionisio	4	37,524	4,722	32,803	37,559	71	28	37,256	57	24	304	109	41	1
San Enrique	4	44,079	20,019	24,061	42,628	58	22	40,696	51	21	1,932	98	36	5
San Joaquin	3	88,588	25,024	63,564	54,644	31	12	42,426	45	19	12,219	10	2	22
San Miguel	5	53,426	20,118	33,307	31,307	98	34	24,184	107	38	7,124	25	8	23
San Rafael	4	37,874	14,470	23,398	19,933	115	42	18,635	115	42	1,298	104	39	7
Sara	3	52,185	24,137	28,048	53,236	34	14	50,497	28	11	2,739	83	29	5
Sta. Barbara	3	89,398	39,792	49,603	62,670	20	8	54,622	22	9	8,048	20	8	13
Tigbauan	3	63,320	14,964	48,356	52,034	36	16	47,720	31	15	4,314	65	16	8
Tubungan	4	47,879	9,759	38,120	30,096	101	38	27,962	94	34	2,134	91	33	7
Zarraga	4	40,158	6,389	33,769	29,897	102	37	26,821	98	35	3,076	77	27	10
Negros Occidental		2,059,725	783,811	1,275,913	1,172,825			1,020,943			151,881			13
Binalbagan	2	180,018	81,460	98,558	80,947	6	4	72,871	6	5	7,076	21	8	10
Calatrava	1	194,691	41,682	153,008	100,884	4	3	81,069	3	2	19,816	4	3	20
Candoni	4	42,020	13,344	28,676	33,759	89	17	27,469	96	18	6,290	36	10	19
Cauayan	1	179,507	67,253	112,254	101,010	3	2	89,170	2	1	11,841	11	6	12
Enrique B. Magalona	2	111,234	34,220	77,013	63,555	19	8	60,056	11	7	3,499	66	13	6
Hinigaran	1	123,416	52,017	71,400	101,477	2	1	79,783	5	4	21,694	3	2	21
Hinobaan	2	87,708	25,593	62,115	65,888	16	7	58,495	15	8	7,394	24	9	11
Ilog	3	130,993	85,943	45,050	59,698	22	9	56,244	19	9	3,454	70	14	6
Isabela	3	153,042	23,071	129,972	58,212	24	11	45,426	39	11	12,786	9	5	22
La Castellana	2	53,368	18,290	35,078	66,528	14	6	62,792	9	6	3,736	61	12	6
Manapla	3	97,408	46,213	51,195	56,420	26	12	51,349	25	10	5,071	47	11	9
Moises Padilla	3	97,300	31,660	65,640	45,553	50	15	43,439	43	12	2,114	92	16	5
Murcia	1	169,089	123,955	45,134	76,322	7	5	79,946	4	3	(3,624)	116	19	(5)
Pontevedra	3	129,403	53,271	76,132	51,614	37	13	41,977	48	14	9,637	17	7	19
Pulupandan	4	53,621	22,286	31,335	44,267	53	16	42,228	46	13	2,039	93	17	5
Salvador Benedicto	4	57,650	14,775	42,875	31,735	95	18	31,804	79	17	(69)	112	18	(0)
San Enrique	5	33,029	9,613	23,416	28,625	104	19	26,214	101	19	2,411	88	15	8
Toboso	3	97,902	19,643	78,259	47,782	46	14	34,899	63	16	12,883	7	4	27
Valladolid	4	68,425	19,622	48,803	58,047	23	10	35,714	62	15	22,933	2	1	39
REGION 7		9,137,219	2,430,646	6,706,574	5,331,732			4,346,882			984,850			18
Bohol		2,575,835	672,199	1,903,636	1,687,108			1,450,373			236,736			14
Albuquerque	5	26,868	5,409	21,459	21,121	115	43	18,327	114	45	2,795	97	33	13
Alicia	4	36,110	7,908	28,203	34,251	70	21	28,922	69	21	5,329	71	18	16
Anda	5	8,863	951	7,912	26,770	101	37	23,553	94	34	3,217	91	30	12
Antequera	4	42,168	6,369	35,799	30,035	89	29	27,651	75	24	2,384	101	35	8
Baclayon	5	60,383	6,790	53,593	27,327	100	36	22,253	98	37	5,074	74	20	19
Balilihan	4	49,520	9,253	40,266	31,716	83	28	27,142	81	27	4,574	76	21	14
Batuan	4	34,984	6,101	28,883	20,619	117	45	16,951	117	46	3,668	85	28	18
Bien Unido	5	34,825	10,285	24,540	29,093	93	31	25,237	86	29	3,856	83	26	13
Bilar	4	37,051	9,063	27,988	33,796	75	23	27,243	79	26	6,553	53	12	19
Buenavista	4	49,291	14,928	34,364	53,225	30	6	37,541	36	7	15,684	16	2	29
Calape	4	59,319	6,954	52,365	37,092	60	15	35,055	43	10	2,037	108	39	5
Candijay	4	40,536	5,833	34,702	39,591	50	10	33,672	49	13	5,920	62	14	15
Carmen	2	139,529	26,898	112,631	76,872	11	1	62,776	12	3	14,096	20	3	18
Catigbian	4	51,722	16,168	35,554	35,050	68	19	33,624	50	14	1,427	116	44	4
Clarin	5	42,295	11,797	30,498	26,652	102	38	24,266	89	32	2,386	100	34	9
Corella	5	20,719	3,904	16,815	20,464	118	46	18,853	113	44	1,611	113	43	8
Cortes	5	9,338	1,149	8,188	24,480	109	40	22,253	97	36	2,227	104	37	9
Dagohoy	5	39,895	4,737	35,157	28,229	95	32	23,093	95	35	5,136	72	19	18
Danao	4	46,534	22,907	23,627	31,749	82	27	32,724	55	16	(974)	119	46	(3)
Dauis	4	38,460	6,215	32,245	33,570	77	24	34,652	45	11	(1,082)	120	47	(3)
Dimiao	5	42,173	11,715	30,458	28,160	97	33	24,641	88	31	3,519	88	29	12
Duero	5	40,318	22,099	18,219	29,693	91	30	23,845	93	33	5,848	63	15	20
Garcia-Hernandez	4	49,451	11,657	37,793	36,723	62	16	32,225	56	17	4,498	77	22	12
Getafe	4	75,498	16,195	59,303	39,357	51	11	33,263	53	15	6,095	60	13	15
Guindulman	4	63,017	13,592	49,425	34,307	69	20	28,542	73	23	5,765	64	16	17
Inabanga	3	92,004	24,593	67,412	50,707	34	7	40,666	32	6	10,041	31	5	20
Jagna	4	98,704	38,051	60,653	47,047	40	8	37,539	37	8	9,508	34	6	20
Lila	5	21,150	8,265	12,885	21,149	114	42	19,057	112	43	2,092	107	38	10
Loay	5	17,601	1,087	16,515	23,626	110	41	21,794	102	38	1,832	110	41	8
Loboc	5	33,256	14,594	18,662	32,671	79	25	25,045	87	30	7,626	45	9	23
Loon	3	123,946	60,756	63,190	54,786	28	5	47,730	26	5	7,056	50	10	13
Mabini	4	56,154	18,124	38,030	35,438	67	18	31,413	59	18	4,025	81	25	11
Maribojoc	5	39,280	4,575	34,705	27,687	98	34	26,311	83	28	1,376	118	45	5
Panglao	4	61,125	3,267	57,858	37,872	54	12	30,066	65	20	7,805	43	8	21
Pilar	4	55,688	31,882	23,807	35,913	64	17	34,035	48	12	1,878	109	40	5
Pres. Carlos P. Garcia	5	37,071	3,215	33,857	27,337	99	35	21,784	103	39	5,553	68	17	20
Sagbayan	4	33,366	13,363	20,002	31,900	81	26	27,524	77	25	4,375	78	23	14
San Isidro	5	24,329	4,794	19,535	20,810	116	44	19,179	111	42	1,632	112	42	8
San Miguel	4	30,806	9,509	21,298	34,126	72	22	30,931	62	19	3,195	92	31	9
Sevilla	5	29,194	1,832	27,362	25,196	107	39	20,920	106	40	4,277	79	24	17
Sierra-bullones	4	94,408	28,286	66,122	37,738	57	13	28,876	70	22	8,862	37	7	23
Sikatuna	5	25,531	3,481	22,050	19,387	119	47	16,231	119	47	3,156	93	32	16
Talibon	1	130,730	50,441	80,288	73,708	14	3	70,034	8	1	3,674	84	27	5
Trinidad	4	61,886	22,806	39,080	41,933	47	9	35,165	41	9	6,768	52	11	16
Tubigon	43	130,433	46,430	84,003	64,653	20	4	62,300	13	4	2,352	102	36	4
Ubay	2	134,578	12,993	121,585	76,022	12	2	65,383	11	2	10,639	28	4	14
Valencia	4	105,745	10,998	94,748	37,458	58	14	20,087	110	41	17,371	11	1	46
Cebu		4,337,434	1,119,786	3,217,648	2,359,743			1,876,549			483,194			20
Alcantara	5	50,101	9,477	40,624	26,326	103	44	18,014	115	46	8,312	40	26	32
Alcoy	5	88,199	13,717	74,482	28,225	96	43	25,258	85	37	2,967	94	42	11
Alegria	4	40,864	10,756	30,108	41,030	48	28	27,248	78	34	13,782	21	13	34
Aloguinsan	4	32,700	5,849	26,852	29,734	90	41	22,249	99	41	7,485	46	28	25
Argao	2	191,175	71,707	119,469	63,938	21	11	55,388	19	10	8,550	39	25	13
Asturias	3	115,591	17,681	97,910	52,599	32	17	37,601	35	18	14,998	19	12	29
Badian	4	70,303	14,742	55,561	48,870	35	19	29,701	66	31	19,169	8	5	39
Balamban	1	167,351	43,234	124,117	102,752	3	2	72,539	7	5	30,214	3	1	29
Bantayan	2	126,250	14,775	111,475	69,345	18	9	53,986	21	12	15,359	17	11	22
Barili	3	116,710	24,204	92,506	57,787	25	13	51,438	23	14	6,349	66	32	11
Bogo	1	277,612	123,489	154,123	87,212	7	4	77,740	5	3	9,473	35	22	11
Boljo-on	5	59,089	10,750	48,339	46,291	42	23	21,177	104	43	25,115	5	3	54
Borbon	4	31,880	6,880	25,000	35,562	66	33	33,452	51	24	2,109	106	44	6
Carcar	1	173,120	55,502	117,618	98,009	4	3	81,855	3	2	16,154	14	9	16
Carmen	3	91,774	12,591	79,183	56,619	27	15	35,666	39	20	20,954	6	4	37
Catmon	4	71,058	11,312	59,746	38,298	53	29	30,966	61	30	7,332	47	29	19
Compostela	4	75,004	16,233	58,771	45,203	44	25	33,285	52	25	11,917	24	15	26
Consolacion	2	174,235	50,855	123,380	83,899	10	6	72,883	6	4	11,016	27	18	13
Cordova	4	71,451	19,148	52,303	42,179	46	27	31,679	58	28	10,499	29	19	25
Daan Bantayan	2	188,930	43,301	145,629	72,778	15	8	54,551	20	11	18,227	9	6	25
Dalaguete	2	166,945	62,367	104,578	75,138	13	7	58,472	14	7	16,665	13	8	22
Dumanjug	4	69,917	19,971	49,946	45,237	43	24	39,789	33	17	5,448	70	36	12
Ginatilan	5	35,163	7,490	27,673	25,664	106	46	20,098	109	45	5,566	67	34	22
Liloan	2	134,581	45,256	89,326	66,598	19	10	57,547	15	8	9,051	36	23	14
Madridejos	4	32,362	5,204	27,158	35,832	65	32	33,061	54	26	2,771	98	43	8
Malabuyoc	5	46,155	13,519	32,637	31,370	85	37	21,820	101	42	9,550	32	21	30
Medellin	3	140,102	19,270	120,832	54,133	29	16	43,748	31	16	10,386	30	20	19
Minglanilla	1	130,963	32,397	98,565	84,133	9	5	68,306	9	6	15,826	15	10	19
Moalboal	4	62,880	18,124	44,756	37,865	55	30	31,797	57	27	6,068	61	33	16
Naga	1	237,592	51,372	186,220	114,273	2	1	85,500	2	1	28,772	4	2	25
Oslob	4	54,573	11,218	43,356	30,984	86	38	27,553	76	33	3,431	89	41	11
Pilar	5	25,478	5,395	20,083	33,843	74	34	20,979	105	44	12,864	23	14	38
Pinamungajan	3	129,436	42,392	87,044	48,409	36	20	31,246	60	29	17,163	12	7	35
Poro	4	63,402	25,670	37,732	32,508	80	36	25,621	84	36	6,887	51	30	21
Ronda	5	27,855	12,064	15,792	25,664	105	45	23,925	91	39	1,739	111	45	7
Samboan	5	45,085	5,530	39,555	30,713	87	39	22,892	96	40	7,821	42	27	25
San Fernando	2	97,548	15,530	82,018	61,910	22	12	56,833	18	9	5,077	73	37	8
San Francisco	4	86,105	7,819	78,286	44,343	45	26	35,494	40	21	8,849	38	24	20
San Remigio	3	65,764	13,905	51,859	51,277	33	18	49,761	24	15	1,515	115	46	3
Santa Fe	5	24,442	3,877	20,565	29,619	92	42	24,117	90	38	5,503	69	35	19
Santander	5	60,129	36,414	23,715	30,176	88	40	28,751	72	32	1,425	117	47	5
Sibonga	3	138,606	16,768	121,838	47,349	38	21	36,078	38	19	11,271	26	17	24
Sogod	4	76,085	31,039	45,046	37,754	56	31	34,171	46	23	3,583	87	40	9
Tabogon	4	37,991	16,896	21,095	46,308	41	22	34,959	44	22	11,349	25	16	25
Tabuelan	4	24,870	1,777	23,093	33,572	76	35	27,188	80	35	6,384	54	31	19
Tuburan	2	84,498	16,660	67,839	56,982	26	14	52,337	22	13	4,645	75	38	8
Tudela	5	25,507	5,659	19,848	21,434	113	47	17,832	116	47	3,601	86	39	17
Negros Oriental		1,945,057	593,371	1,351,686	1,133,623			896,172			237,451			21
Amlan	4	37,172	10,881	26,291	32,946	78	18	29,605	68	17	3,340	90	17	10
Ayungon	3	84,465	23,356	61,109	89,674	5	2	45,711	27	7	43,963	2	2	49
Bacong	4	83,397	27,755	55,642	37,377	59	14	29,672	67	16	7,704	44	8	21
Basay	4	83,816	28,996	54,820	31,713	84	19	28,805	71	18	2,909	96	19	9
Bindoy	4	65,994	26,149	39,844	58,283	24	8	38,313	34	11	19,970	7	3	34
Dauin	4	42,449	13,223	29,226	34,054	73	17	26,772	82	19	7,283	48	9	21
Guihulngan	1	152,455	80,956	71,499	87,578	6	3	81,399	4	2	6,179	58	12	7
Jimalalud	4	49,826	12,123	37,703	36,261	63	16	30,550	64	15	5,711	65	13	16
La Libertad	3	80,287	22,169	58,118	47,853	37	10	43,945	30	10	3,908	82	16	8
Mabinay	2	163,601	16,916	146,685	72,566	16	5	57,509	16	4	15,056	18	5	21
Manjuyod	3	132,104	28,747	103,357	52,833	31	9	45,692	28	8	7,141	49	10	14
Pamplona	3	71,982	31,681	40,301	40,658	49	12	35,085	42	12	5,573	66	14	14
San Jose	5	30,041	14,308	15,733	24,965	108	20	22,013	100	20	2,951	95	18	12
Siaton	2	90,879	25,863	65,016	70,823	17	6	57,344	17	5	13,479	22	6	19
Sibulan	3	63,185	14,067	49,118	58,349	23	7	48,821	25	6	9,528	33	7	16
Santa Catalina	1	183,313	60,600	122,712	85,394	8	4	67,627	10	3	17,768	10	4	21
Tayasan	4	71,105	35,588	35,517	47,220	39	11	45,615	29	9	1,605	114	20	3
Valencia	1	351,504	92,965	258,539	149,825	1	1	97,071	1	1	52,754	1	1	35
Vallehermoso	4	33,981	7,574	26,407	38,332	52	13	34,067	47	13	4,265	80	15	11
Zamboanguita	4	73,501	19,453	54,048	36,918	61	15	30,555	63	14	6,364	55	11	17
Siquijor		278,893	45,290	233,603	151,257			123,788			27,469			18
E. Villanueva	5	16,984	2,936	14,048	16,556	120	6	14,270	120	6	2,286	103	5	14
Larena	5	39,778	5,368	34,410	26,077	104	3	23,858	92	2	2,219	105	6	9
Lazi	4	72,435	15,654	56,780	28,989	94	2	20,732	107	3	8,256	41	1	28
Maria	5	30,958	3,720	27,238	23,000	111	4	20,585	108	4	2,415	99	4	10
San Juan	5	48,212	4,787	43,426	22,414	112	5	16,306	118	5	6,108	59	3	27
Siquijor	4	70,526	12,825	57,701	34,221	71	1	28,037	74	1	6,185	57	2	18

Difference between totals and sum of components is due to rounding off

Rank:

1-Regionwide Ranking　　*2-Provincewide Ranking*

LGUs with unsubmitted year-end financial reports as of cut-off date of June 15, 2007

Region 6

1.) Batan, Aklan

2.) Sibunag, Guimaras

(PDI - Sept. 29, 2007)

Message of Thanks

We, **the bereaved family of the late**

REV. MSGR. GORGONIO L. ENCARNACION,

wish to express our heartfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation to His Eminence Gaudencio B. Cardinal Rosales, D.D., the auxiliary bishops and clergy of the Archdiocese of Manila, RCAM family, Cardinal Sin Welcome Home family, those who offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers and messages of sympathy and also those who in countless ways condoled and comforted us in our time of bereavement.

"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever believes in Me will never die."
John 11:25-26

Our Dearly Beloved

Marcelo D. Salazar

Now rests in the infinite warmth and embrace of our Lord.
He joined our Creator on the 26th of September 2007 at the age of 68.

His wife, **Leticia T. Salazar** (†) and children **Marilyn** (†), **Marlet**, **Mark**, **Marvie**, **Mariel** and grandson **Mark Vincent** and all relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Interment will be on Tuesday, October 2, 2007, 1 p.m. at the Alfonso Municipal Cemetery, Alfonso, Cavite.

"Don't grieve for me, For I'm free
I'm following the path God laid for me.
Lift up your heart and share with me
God wanted me now. He set me free."

Our Dearly Beloved

Col. JUANITO G. ODEJAR

Now rests in the infinite warmth and embrace of our Lord.
He joined our Creator on the 27th of September 2007 at the age of 79.

His loving wife, **Bening E. Odejar** and children **Marie** and **Lucille**, all relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

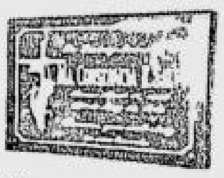
His remains lie in state at the Heaven's Garden Memorial Chapel, National Highway, Brgy. Anos, Los Baños, Laguna.

Interment will be on Sunday, September 30, 2007, 11:00 a.m. at the Heaven's Garden Memorial Park, National Highway, Brgy. Anos, Los Baños, Laguna.

SANDBLASTED . GRANITE

TOMB MARKERS

(LAPIDA)



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EMAIL: prit@skyinet.net

Death Notice

Amella Mistades Dumagat

Died Sept. 26, 2007 at the age of 65.

Her body lies in state at her residence at 1958 J. Patino St., Sta. Ana, Manila.

Interment is on Oct. 2, 2 p.m. at Manila South Cemetery, Makati.

More CLASSIFIED ADS on pages...

DOLE-REGION IV	A8
DOLE-NCR	A25
National Food Authority-RO6-2008-04	B4
National Food Authority-RO6-2008-03	B4

Always caring...

INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS: ❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)
WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS and bank-to-bank payments.

"...absent from the body to be present with the Lord."

2 Corinthians 5:8

CLASSIFIEDS

TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

TESDA's JANITORIAL and SECURITY SERVICES CY 2008

50 Janitors and 59 Security Personnel Requirements of TESDA Central Office and TESDA-NCTESD, Marikina Campus

The Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) through the National Government Budget intends to apply the amount of the following for payment of contract:

Janitorial Service – P 8,081,430.00
Security Services – P12,744,000.00

being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC). Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

TESDA now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the Janitorial and Security requirements of TESDA. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, Invitation to Bidders (ITB).

Bidding will be conducted through public bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the lowest calculated bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine his responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) as determined during the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY DIVISION, 3rd Flr. TESDA Administration Building and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of Eight Thousand Pesos Only **(P8,000.00)** for the Janitorial Services and Ten Thousand Pesos Only **(P10,000.00)** for the Security Services. The method of payment will be in the form of cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

TESDA will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on October 16, 2007, 10:00 A.M. for Janitorial Services and 2:00 P.M. for Security Services at OTI Conference Room, Learning Center, Ground Floor, TESDA Administration Building.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before 10:00 A.M. for Janitorial and 2:00 P.M. for Security on October 31, 2007. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of:

- Cash, certified check, cashier's check equivalent to 1% of the total bid price; or
- Bank guarantee equivalent to 1½% of the total bid price.

Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid opening shall be held on October 31, 2007, 10:30 A.M. for Janitorial and 2:30 P.M. for Security at OTI Conference Room, Learning Center, Ground Floor, TESDA Administration Building. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.

TESDA reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
MR. T.S. SANICO
Chairperson, BAC
TESDA Complex, TESDA Administration Building
East Service Road, South Luzon Expressway
Taguig City, Philippines

Tel. No.: **817-40-76 to 80 local 314 & 315**
TeleFax No.: **893-8296**
E-mail: **psd_ocsa@tesda.gov.ph**
Website: **www.tesda.gov.ph**

(Sgd.) **T.S. SANICO**
Chairperson, BAC

(PDI–Sept. 29, 2007)

Republika ng Pilipinas
Republic of the Philippines
Kagawaran ng Tanggulang Pambansa
Department of National Defense

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

(DND-Proper Procurement of Goods)

I. The Department of National Defense, through the DND-Proper Bids and Awards Committee, invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following projects:

Project A. Bidding of Various Equipments

Name of Project	Description	Approved Budget for Contract (ABC)
1. IT and Office Equipments	Supply and Delivery of Assorted IT and Office Equipments for use of PDR Offices	Php1,644,000.00
2. Vehicles and Motorcycles	Supply and Delivery of Vehicles and Motorcycle for use of PDR Offices	1,200,000.00
	TOTAL	2,844,000.00

Project B. Re-Bidding of Supplies:

Name of Project	Description	Approved Budget for Contract (ABC)
1. Other Supplies	Supply and Delivery of Assorted Other Supplies	Php3,719,625.00
	TOTAL	Php3,719,625.00

II. The schedule of activities are as follows:

ACTIVITIES	VENUE	DATE	TIME
Issuance of Bid Documents	DND Proper BAC Secretarial, OASIL Rm 203, 2nd Floor DND Bldg., Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City	October 01-23, 2007	9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Pre-Bid Conference	OASPER Old Conference Room, Basement, DND Bldg.	October 12, 2007	9:30 AM
Deadline for Submission / Opening of Bids	OASPER Old Conference Room, Basement, DND Bldg.	October 24, 2007	9:00 AM
Bid Evaluation	These shall be in accordance with the prescribed periods allowed in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR)-A of R.A. 9184 dated 10 January 2003.		
Post-Qualification			
Issuance of Notice of Award			

III. Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of non-refundable amount as indicated below to the DND-Proper BAC Secretariat, Procurement Branch, Office of Administrative Services, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City, Tel No. 911-8118:

Name of Project	Cost of Bidding Documents
Project A. Bidding of Various Equipments	
1. IT and Office Equipments	Php 1,600.00
2. Vehicles and Motorcycles	1,200.00
Project B. Re-Bidding of Supplies	
1 Other Supplies	3,700.00

IV. The eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted. All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations Part-A (IRR-A).

V. All prospective bidders are encouraged to apply for a certificate of eligibility not later than two (2) days prior to the scheduled submission and opening of bids.

VI. The OSND assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

VII. The OSND reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any formality and award the Contract to the bidder whose proposal is the most advantageous to the government as evaluated by the DND-Proper Bids and Awards Committee (DND-Proper BAC).

VIII. The Invitation is also posted in the DBM Procurement Service website at www.procurementservice.org, and the DND website at www.dnd.gov.ph in accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184. Further, it shall also be posted at conspicuous places in the premises of the Department of National Defense (DND).

(Sgd.) ASSISTANT SECRETARY RUBEN F CIRON
Chairman, DND-Proper BAC

(PDI – September 29, 2007)

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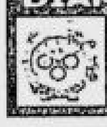

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